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WALTER WHITE, Assistant-Secretary, R.S.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1865.

LITERATURE

Photographs from Sketches by A. W. N. Pugin.
By Stephen Ayling. (Ayling.)

PUGIN presents himself in many aspects to the common observer: in some of these there is much that is contradictory, bewildering, and even shocking, to those who find a safety in middle paths, which would not be theirs by means of strength of purpose, earnestness, or urgent love for Art. To the self-satisfied men of his youth there must have been much that was incomprehensible in one who thought fit to practise a "business" which prides itself above all things upon its extreme "respectability," and paid no heed to the fitting of his clothes; or would do things horrible to white hands,—such as draw a bucket of water from the pump at St. Dunstan's, and go with it through the streets, to the dismay of his excellent father. Pugin, in the pea-jacket, that glistened with dried brine, and with a wide-awake on his head, must have been a hard morsel for the good old gentlemanly architect of his day. Pugin landing from his yacht, after rough weather, and handing his etched copper-plates to Mr. Weale, with the assurance that he had finished them on board, took somewhat aback the kindly antiquary and publisher, who knew and respected him. Pugin, dealing in eggs brought across the Channel to Dover, or grabbing up antiquities from Belgium and France, and making a museum of "curiosities" for himself at home, practising stage-tricks and theatrical machinery,—to say nothing of getting into debt and matrimony before he was twenty,—raised in the well-ordered minds of dull contemporaries an antagonistic feeling, which almost reached its acme when, with all his heart, he set to abusing Wyatt the Destroyer, in language of the most vigorous order, as "the vile, cunning, rascally villain Wyatt," that "monster of architectural depravity." We of these days can almost feel with the audacious youth, who used this language with regard to an eminently respectable gentleman of the highest professional standing, who was R.A. and what not else, but the epithets must have been dreadful to those who were heedless whether or not the man to whom they were applied shovelled cart-loads of stained glass into the ditch at Salisbury, shifted the monument of William-with-the-Long-Sword, wrecked the interior of the Cathedral with axe and hammer, razed the campanile, which was contemporary with the church, and while he displayed the crassitude of his ignorance in suiting Gothic works to principles which he fancied were classical, did more evil than the iconoclasts, and marred that which deans and chapters had spared. What was it to these easy-going gentlemen if the otherwise estimable Academician hacked the west front of Lichfield Cathedral, so that stucco might stick on it, and masons worked out idiotic masks with the points of their trowels, or if he had turned Hereford inside out? His denouement might at least have used decorous language.

When Pugin became a Roman Catholic, the minds of his antagonists saw therein the natural climax to much they did not understand, and recognized the apparent outcome of a great deal they rightly blamed, and his friends lamented with sincerity. It is not in regard to this act alone, any more than as concerns his violence and whimsicalities, that we must judge Pugin as apart from his architectural ability. He was not all the avid man his passionate ways and incessant changes seemed

to indicate; his sensation-loving and insatiate nature found no repose even in a new religion; he set to work at once to reform the ceremonies of his adopted faith, and did not scruple to apply to priests who sinned against archaeology and art the same incisive language which fell blunted from the cassocks of Protestant deans and chapters of his father's time, although it was by no means ineffectual with those of his own and our days. A very earnest and urgent nature, such as Pugin's, satisfied itself only with authority for reform, and proceeded logically, as well as artistically, to examine what had been done in his art of old. To this end were directed many books and passionate arguments, which, if they assumed too much for one side, and ignored many proper considerations, were right enough in the main, and of inestimable service to the progress of design among us. It is remarkable that the professors of his new faith seem to have felt but little gratitude to the serviceable and urgent convert, that his cathedral in St. George's Fields, pitifully pared as it was in the first instance, remains to this day without progressing, and that the only memorial of the man emanated from his professional brethren, who are for the most part Protestants, and divided from the Church he would have served so well.

As it is, this is a fairy book: a mine of infinite variety, of inexhaustible associations, precious not alone to the artist and architect, but to everybody. Does an architect wish to be reminded of the composition which some nook, or church and bridge, or wall and street, gate, river and high tower have made in Nuremberg, Cologne, Mayence, Augsburg, Ulm, Rouen, Lisieux, Chartres, Bayeux, or Coutances? would he revive his memory of general views in Avignon, Brussels, Bruges, Mechlin, or Louvain, or traverse with the mind's eye the once-seen perspectives of Bologna, Florence, Milan, Antwerp, Courtray, Perugia, Lucca, Berne, and little towns which Art has consecrated in the memory? if he does, as well may be, here is good chance of meeting with the very thing, drawn with extraordinary precision and fidelity to general character, depicted with apt artistic feeling for its beauty. On the other hand, does a student or a goldsmith wish to see a note or two, exquisitely reproduced, of some mediæval treasure which, being hoarded in the vesture-chests of cathedrals, rarely sees the light, or is trebly locked up in the treasures of churches and private collectors? here it is to hand. Does a worker in iron lack examples of the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries? here are chiselled and hammered marvels of design from Nuremberg. Here are candelabra and crucifixes, hinges, brackets and little bits of lovely foliage to boot, drawn just as the skilful wish them to be, i.e. not too elaborately, but with complete spirit, grace, curve and crispness of line. Here are mitres, croziers, crooks, ewers, lecterns, censers, and morsels of pierced work such as would honour Mulciber himself; cusps, canopies from Cologne, chalices, reliquaries, monstrances, infinitely various in their forms and diverse in dates and origins; drinking vessels, bits of precious embroidery, railings, incised slabs and monumental brasses, memorial crosses of the "Eleanor" character; oriel, statues, gables, niches, pinnacles, tabernacles, doorways, fragments from pictures to show costume, furniture or composition, and buildings drawn *en masse*. Here is, in fact, a gathering of such fascinating character as one might expect from Pugin's hands when travelling in search of treasures, empowered to draw them with wonderful good fortune and guided by

marvellous knowledge and almost perfect taste. This is an Art-album of the most precious kind a book that will entrance ladies no less than it will delight students; a gift entitling the donor to perpetual remembrance.

Here, for instance, is the Tower of St. Romain, at Rouen, the oldest part of which saw Henry the First of England, with his own hands, dash backwards from a window in the *Tour de Rouen* the rebel Conan. He took this wealthy citizen, then a prisoner, to the summit of the old tower, and from that altitude pointed out to him the splendour of the prospect. "See, there is the Seine," said the prince, "amply stocked with fish; there are the many barks which, laden with merchandise, come to the city of my ancestors, of which you desired possession; there is the park with the deer that all of us love to hunt; there are the strong walls, the great houses, and the great churches dating from time I know not how long ago; there are the people who walk in the crowded streets, all the heart of Normandy is there. Is not the sight a fine one?" So deadly bitter was the smile of Henry as he turned towards his companion when these words were said, that the poor wretch divined something of his purpose and his own fate in that triumphant sneer. "I beg for mercy, in the name of God," he implored, clinging and turning towards the lord. "I will give all my gold and silver, and all that my friends own, so that I may keep my life. I will be faithful through all the days that you spare to me, and never more rebel." But Henry swore, "By the soul of my mother, I will have no ransom from a traitor; such a one shall die this instant." Then Conan shrieked, "For the love of God, a moment for a confessor." But Henry, writhing with the rebel and zealous for his dear brother Robert's cause—for this took place in the days of the Courthoese, who, by the way, had fled ignominiously from Rouen—at least, so says Henry's panegyrist, Ordericus Vitalis, who, like the rest of the monks, would never forgive Robert for having declined the crown of Jerusalem—seized Conan with both hands and dashed him backwards from the tower window; he died before he reached the ground, and the place was afterwards known as "Conan's Leap." It was in the fortress to which this tower belonged that a host of strange deeds were done: one of which disposed of Arthur of Brittany.

Alongside the Tower of St. Romain, and repeatedly sketched here, is the famous *Tour de Beurre*, or of Cardinal d'Amboise, the splendid and unscrupulous minister who did a great deal, in a *rococo* fashion, for the cathedral, and amongst other things furnished an enormous bell to hang in the said tower; so much was thought of it that its successful casting affected the moulder to such an extent that he died of joy. Thus the story goes of the happy fate which procured him a grave in the nave of the cathedral. As a bell, however, *Georges* was a dreadful failure, and had to be satisfied with the reputation of being the biggest of his kind that had been hung in a tower. Its diameter was nearly eleven English feet; its voice was last heard at the entry of Louis the Sixteenth into Rouen, in 1786; in the Revolution it was cast into cannon, and so got a voice by transformation; part of the metal was cast into medals, which are, we believe, not uncommon in cabinets. The Cardinals d'Amboise, uncle and nephew, are buried in the cathedral,—at least, their tombs, which were rifled in 1793, are there, as everybody knows; Pugin gives many capital sketches of the details of these famous works. Some of the minor fragments of drawings which accompany those, referred to the

tombs of the Cardinals d'Amboise, are, it strikes us, due to the neighbouring monument of the Seneschal, Louis de Brezé, Constable of Rouen, and husband of no less interesting a person than Diane de Poitiers, who swore to share the grave of the good man as she had shared his bed; but forgot to do so, and was buried at the Château d'Anet, which is twenty miles away, in the country. Near this tomb stands that of another Seneschal of Normandy, the occupant's grandfather, Pierre de Brezé, Count of Maulevrier, a noteworthy person of his day, as the folks of Sandwich thought when he stormed their town in August, 1457. Monstrelet tells us all about this lord, who, by the way, was killed at Montlhéry in 1465, and adds a grim story of his son, Jacques de Brezé, and the way in which he slew his wife, Charlotte of France, daughter of Agnes Sorel—see 'Chronicles,' June 18th, 1476. Louis the Eleventh, by way of fine for blood-guiltiness, took away certain estates from Jacques the Seneschal, which were restored by Henry the Second—the *Henri* of the beautiful Duchesse de Valentinois—to his grandson Louis the Seneschal, and thus occasioned much lifting of eye-brows and many shrugs and grins.

Bruges, which is profusely illustrated here, is a city of old memories. Baldwin Bras de Fer, Forester of Flanders, ran away with Judith, daughter of Charles le Chauve, of France, his suzerain, and kept in his castle there that too lively widow of Ethelwolf and Ethelbald, father and son, kings of East Anglia; she was but twenty-two at the date of her third marriage, so we need not be severe upon the lady who taught Alfred his letters, if that story be true. There was no end to the squabbles in her father's court; the monks who surrounded him could not be expected to be tolerant of such a life as that into which the passion of Ethelbald had almost forced her. Baldwin was big and brave, strong in the hand, able and willing to give her safety; her son married Alfred's daughter, hence it would appear that even so respectable a court as that of the "father of his country" did not look severely upon Judith. Here, in St. Saviour's, of which Pugin gives a charming interior sketch (436), there is a little chamber at the west end, where, together with other treasures, they keep a leaden plate, a very poor thing to look at, but a relic of another princess who fled here under less happy auspices than Judith with the golden hair. It came from the tomb of Gunhilda, daughter of Earl Godwin, sister of King Harold, who, after the battle of Hastings, fled with her mother, Githa, in Flemish ships, to Bruges, and spent the remaining ten years of her life in safety, leaving her jewels to the great church of St. Donat, in the city, where they remained for three hundred years, to be sold at last in time of famine. For seven hundred years her tomb remained unviolated, and the few pathetic words on the leaden plate were unread in the darkness of the grave; that grave, and the cloister which had sheltered it so long, even the great church itself to which they pertained, were wrecked in 1804 by the Revolutionists, who razed it to the ground as completely as if they had been servants of an Arabian caliph, appointed to let no stone stand on another. A statue of Van Eyck and a few trees occupy the site of one of the most interesting churches in Europe.

The next drawing to that which represents the interior of St. Saviour's Church, at Bruges, gives us a study of part of that of Notre Dame in the same city, which contains the monuments of Charles the Bold and his gentle but hapless daughter Mary. The bones of these personages still lie, we are told, scattered about in the

vault beneath the choir. It would seem as if rest is at last due to the mere bones of Charles; from the field of lost battle they were borne to St. George's Church, at Nancy, thence to that of St. Donat here, and finally to that of St. Saviour, in 1558. His daughter Mary claims some respect. This princess left her crown to the Chapel of the Holy Blood, at Bruges, illustrated in No. 444 of these sketches, where it still hangs before the high altar, and helps to keep her kindly memory alive.

If we would leap across Europe and settle our attention on the grand churches of Florence, it may be by the aid of the drawings Pugin gave of the Baptistry of the Duomo at that place, which represent some of the details of the building and its decorations. Here are fragments of antiquity which were already old when Savonarola was burnt, arches that echoed to the tread of the horse of Charles of Valois, ornaments that Dante might have put his hand upon. Here are brick mouldings from Milan, which deserve more study than is practicable with a drawing on so small a scale as that in use before us, and the curious staircase-turret in the Duomo that has seen so many changes; there another shows the manner in which the balconies of that city were decorated in ancient days, as they still are, by canopies and hanging strips of velvet and damasked stuffs of rich patterns; these balconies have seen Spaniards, French and Austrians flow in and out of the city as if the place belonged indifferently to whoever could hold it. Here is a sketch to show the arrangement of a door-bolt, which seems to have struck Pugin's fancy, in the days gone by; there the canopy they put over the crucifix as it is borne in procession; there again, is one of the beautiful tombs which are placed on brackets on the walls of the Eremitani, Padua, and the seated effigy of a monk reading, beautifully wrought and almost as pathetic in sentiment as its execution is noble. Next comes to hand a set of tombs from Bologna, and then the vista of a street which rang to factious shouts so long that it might almost welcome a foreign master if he brought peace with power; then the figure of an angel kneeling beneath a canopy, whose grace is such that one thinks peace should be forever all about him. Pugin has made notes on many of his sketches; here he says that the details he preserved for us are very English in character; although found in St. Anthony's, at Padua, they are capital examples of Decorated work in this country. There is a compartment on a pulpit at Besançon, of which he says it is "the only decent thing in the whole town"—a characteristic bit of censure.

If we would recall Nuremberg, here is a set of capital studies of old houses in that wonderful old town. There stands St. Sebald's Church, with its twin western towers that are fronted by houses with roofs of such strange pitch, furnished with fourfold ranges of dormers, or triple lines of lights in their gables, and having those gables standing at angles to each other, which are deliciously independent. In this street one almost expects to see Peter Visscher going to work; there Albert Dürer might turn the corner, carrying a resolute, noble face, not unmarked by domestic influences of no very comfortable sort; the face would be somewhat altered since he exchanged likenesses with Raphael; the two, as they paced Bologna together in 1506, might have examined those very details Pugin drew in the Place San Dominic, now before us in No. 335,—Raphael and Albert Dürer side by side in Bologna, or Dürer walking alone in Nuremberg, having his face up and his lips set well together, not pressed hard—it is all

the same: fancy can call them before us thus. Here is a noble piece of Visscher's hammering or carving with the cold chisel out of iron, at Nuremberg; there a sketch of the beautiful chandelier by Q. Matsys, which hangs before the screen of St. Peter's Church, Louvain, and ironwork from the aumbry doors in the same church (No. 488). Pugin missed, or at any rate we have not here any sign of his having seen, a still finer example of the last-named kind, which is in one of the chapels of St. Peter's Church; he did not, it would appear, draw the superb tabernacle which stands to the right of the high altar, and was designed by Matthew de Layens, architect of the Town Hall at Louvain.

There is one merit in these studies which we must not fail to commend. Pugin, whenever an object, building, or morsel of detail, had beautiful qualities, did not slur over the additions of comparatively later date, but gave all together, such as we see in the drawing which is numbered 62, from Courtray, the belfry, where a less ancient spire surmounts the old tower. Near to this building stands the church which once held the trophies of the victory of the commoners of Flanders over the chivalry of France. When, on the 11th of July, 1302, the weavers, butchers and others, of Bruges and Ghent, with their allies, defeated Count Robert of Artois, and inflicted a loss of nearly 30,000 men, among whom were 700 knights, 700 gilt spurs were hung from the roof of the church of Notre Dame. Long after, when the French in their turn defeated Van Artevelde at Mont d'Or, one of the first things they did was to take down the spurs and send them home; next they burned Courtray in a thorough manner. So Froissart tells us.

In conclusion, we may remark, that a stricter classification of the materials in this book would make it more serviceable than it is. The geographical distribution is by no means perfect; the spelling of the names of places in the appended list is sometimes incorrect; the names ought to be placed beneath the sketches, so that the student need not be troubled to refer to a list at the end of the book. It is curious that the sort of confusion to which we thus refer should accompany the plainest statements which regard Pugin; thus, Mr. Ferrey in his recently published 'Recollections of Pugin,' says his friend was born on the 1st of March, 1812, at Store Street, Bedford Square, where his father then resided. If the Exhibition catalogues of that period are to be believed, the elder Pugin lived then at No. 39, Keppel Street, and there, in all probability, our subject was born.

All about Margate and Herne Bay; including Drapers', St. Peter's, and Salvestone; Chapel Bottom, Hengrove, Twenties, and Nash Court; Kingsgate and its Modern Antiques; Garlinge, Dandehorn, Birchington, and Quex; Reculver, Herne, Hampton, and Ford Palace; Whitstable and Canterbury. With Frontispiece, Map, and Engravings. (Kent & Co.)

"MARGATE," with characteristic taste, says the author of this guide to a sea-port popular with Londoners of the humbler classes, "is altogether a pretty town, reminding you at first sight of Boulogne, and as full of *bustle* as the ladies' dresses at present in fashion." This effort of wit may be taken as a fair specimen of the pleasantries, neither pungent nor refined, with which the writer seeks to entertain holiday-makers from Whitechapel and the Minories. That he underrates his special public we cannot venture to say; for the peculiar smartness of his tone justifies an opinion that he is quite at

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home with those whom he wishes to amuse, and that in labouring for their approval he does well to draw largely from his evidently natural vein of facetiousness. The flaming cover, highly-coloured frontispiece, and many comic embellishments of the volume are quite in harmony with the spirit of its text. But though it is not in our power to speak highly of the author's style, we can commend him for the industry with which he has gathered from handbooks, old and new, an abundance of gossip relating to Margate and its environs. Occasionally, however, he makes statements that invite correction, and omits *and* that would contribute to the end he has in view. "Two centuries ago this popular, shrimp-abounding watering-place," says the author, "was known by the name of Meregate, and ranked as the first town in the Island of Thanet." To this remark it must be replied that "Meregate" became an obsolete form of the name of the town at an earlier date than the compiler supposes. The name is spelt Mergate in accounts penned in the opening years of the seventeenth century: but two hundred years since it was pronounced as it is at the present time, and variously spelt in accordance with its pronunciation,—Evelyn spelling it Margate, and Pepys spelling it in one place Margate and in another Margett. But to these two diarists and other writers of their period the compiler seems to have made no reference, although he professes to trace the social history of the town from an early date. Quoting largely from the Rev. John Lewis's account of Margate, written in 1723, he notices the once famous beverage, known to Charles the Second's thirsty subjects by the names of "Northdown Ale" and "Margate Ale," of which drink Lewis says, "About forty years ago, one Prince of this place drove a great trade here in brewing a particular sort of ale, which, from its being brewed at a place called Northdown in this parish, went by the name of Northdown Ale, and afterwards was called Margate Ale. But whether it's owing to the art of brewing this liquor dying with the inventor of it, or the humour of the people altering to the liking the pale north-country ale better, the present brewers send little or none of what they call by the name of Margate ale, which is a great disadvantage to their trade." This was the beer which Evelyn calls "a certain heady ale"; and it is probable that its popularity with London beer-drinkers influenced the generation of brewers who fixed the immutable properties of "stout." In his list of royal visitors to Margate the author notices the departure from that port for Holland of James the First's daughter, Elizabeth: and he makes mention of William the Third's visits to the place, but he says nothing of a royal arrival at Margate, thus mentioned by Pepys: "23rd Sept. 1660 (Lord's Day). This afternoon, the King having news of the Princess being come to Margate, he and the Duke of York went down thither in barges to meet her." In speaking of the arrival at Margate of the first steam-packet that made a voyage to the port from London the compiler, apparently mistaking the elder for the younger Brunel, says "The first steam-packet that made the passage from London to Margate was named the Thames, and according to local historians, this interesting event came off in the year 1815; but from a letter of Mr. Brunel it would appear to have occurred in the year preceding... Many years afterwards, when this distinguished engineer was in the Isle of Thanet, laying out a plan for a railway to Ramsgate, he wrote from Margate to a friend as follows: 'To day, by mere chance, I am at the York Hotel. It was at this same hotel that in 1814 I was refused a bed because I came by steamer, and

every one of the comers met with an unfriendly reception. If they knew at this moment that I came to carry off the cargoes of the steamers to Ramsgate, I might probably share the same fate.' The writer of the letter was not Brunel, the engineer of the Great Western Railway and builder of the Leviathan *alias* Great Eastern steam-vessel, but his father Sir Marc Isambard Brunel.

Contributions to Natural History, chiefly in relation to the Food of the People. By a Rural D.D. (Blackwood & Sons.)

LUKE HAMBURGH sherry and some other things, this is not what it is called; it does not consist of contributions to natural science, but of contributions to the *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*. A book on certain natural history books belongs to bibliography, and not to biology. Our "Rural D.D." moreover, scarcely makes up, by the merit of dealing sparingly in divinity, for the defect of not being particularly rural. The topics on which he touches, with a certain ease and freshness, "chiefly relating to the food of the people," are themes on which the public mind is at the present moment peculiarly sensitive; for, whilst the warmest and brightest September any one remembers seems to have been addressing to us every morning the Greek salutation, "Be cheerful"—the newspapers, by equally regular warnings of dearth and scarcity, have been telling us to "be dismal." Days of sunshine have been chequered by news of disease: disease menacing important points extending over the whole world of life, from that perennial invalid, the potato, up through the poultry, the pig, the sheep, the cow and the ox, to man. Fish, fowl and flesh have all become dear, and are becoming dearer, from disease and death. Everything which has life has also disease, for disease is the beginning of death in the individual forms of life. Biology in its relations to the food of the people must always therefore be the most important practical and interesting aspect of the twin sciences, Zoology and Botany. Silk and pearls, leeches and weather prognostics, are themes on which our author discourses learnedly, and his information will interest the curious on these topics; but his feet will be welcome under every man's mahogany if he can tell us anything worth knowing respecting mushrooms, oysters, mussels, herrings and salmon; and as long as he is only half in earnest he may even recommend horseflesh as something better than juicy mutton and beefsteak. Hope and the "Rural D.D." may then tell as many flattering tales as they please in reference to the good dinners coming—new dainties, Chinese lamb, and yams, kangaroo ham, Syrian pig, Canadian goose, coumani, guan, curassao, yak steaks, pintail and dusky ducks, Honduras turkey, and leporines.

As for horse-eating, it is now a mere question of expense. Our excellent friend M. Isidore Geoffroy de St.-Hilaire was philanthropically in earnest when advocating horse-soup and roast horse; but there was one question he never could satisfactorily answer—what would be the price of a pound of horse-steak? Horse rump-steak would, indeed, be a dainty dish, but it would be a dainty dish to set before a king. If Count Lagrange were to invite the Emperor to dine on roast sirloin of Gladiateur, what would be the value of the joint per ounce? Healthy horses are too valuable to be eaten as food, unhealthy carcasses ought not to be eaten; the supply is therefore limited to horses killed by accidents or in battle. The carcasses of such horses are most valuable, and ought not merely to be eaten as a treat by soldiers, but ought also to be preserved by all the best processes, including the

one by which Liebig obtains his extract of meat.

Horseflesh being out of reach, and the flesh of sheep and oxen becoming too dear, it may be well to remember that from his prehensile and masticating instruments it is evident man is not born to be a flesh-eating animal. He is carnivorous, and indeed omnivorous, only because his brain enables him to be a cook. The hands and teeth of man seem to destine him to live on fruits and grains; and, indeed, fruits and grains supply most of the food of the greater number of the human family. The roast beef of Old England is honoured in song as the food which made the muscles which have won the victories of British arms all the world over, but very little roast beef has ever reached the tile-covered cottages or thatch-roofed cabins supplying the rank and file of British armies. The Scotchman's oats, the Irishman's potatoes, and the Englishman's wheat are at best but seasoned with milk, meat, and bacon. The varieties of the human species could not easily be classified under any categories of flesh- or fish-eaters; but, beginning with the cold and going to the hot countries, we might say, mankind consisted of rye, barley, oat, wheat, chestnut, maize, rice, breadtree, plantain, date and cocoa-eating races. And although man the species eats such vastly different animal and vegetable substances, a more astonishing illustration of prejudice is not to be found than the contempt with which every nation regards the food of every other nation.

The Emperor of China, we are glad to learn, distributes annually a treatise in six volumes, which is entitled "The Anti-famine Herbal." If, however, the treatise recommends the eating of funguses, it is to be hoped he has also, like the Pope of Rome, provided inspectors of mushroom, for the fungi group furnish the most delicious and most dangerous of all kinds of food. Not many years ago, after having regaled himself often on several species of edible fungi, gathered in the fields and marshes, a philanthropic fungologist of our acquaintance, confident in the accuracy of his verbal descriptions, but forgetful how much education is needed to enable ordinary eyes to perceive botanical distinctions, published an essay strongly recommending these vegetal beefsteaks, and ever since, as he confesses, he never reads of a mushroom poisoning without fearing that he may have had art and part in it. Fungi are more eaten by insects than by men; and however nutritious and wholesome the species may be, if attacked by grubs, or if stale or bruised, the mushroom immediately becomes dangerous. A delicious kind of mushroom, a French naturalist informs us, is grown from heaps of old coffee-grounds.

There is a "mission" ready for any philanthropist in the good work of diffusing a knowledge of the edible fungi, about the success of which there cannot be a doubt. But somehow or other enterprises sure to succeed seem less attractive than attempts to introduce novelties even of doubtful utility. More than thirty edible species of fungi grow abundantly in British woods and marshes; and a certain benefit would be obtained by the practical fungologist who should bring them within the range of common cultivation, and make them all as well known as are the mushroom, truffle and morel. But instead of such sure and useful labours, there is something more pleasing to the *savants* in attempts to naturalize in our ponds a new fish like the *Silurus glanis*. The purification of the Thames, again, is the right thing to aim at, on many grounds; but the rejoicing over the capture of a single salmon in the metropolitan river must be sobered by the reflection that the flavour of salmon is proportionally fine or foul according to the purity

of the water in which they live. Commenting on the project of bringing back salmon to the Thames, the "Rural D.D." asks "whether when brought back they would be edible?" The testimony of the Mayor of Gloucester is cited to prove that the refuse from creosote-works made Severn salmon "taste very much of creosote when we did get one for dinner"; and in reference to tarred salmon the confession of a fishmonger is quoted: "I tasted the tar itself throughout the fish from head to tail. There was no mistake about it; it was like tar itself."

Like most embryologists, the "Rural D.D." insists much on the protection needful for the eggs of the animals we wish to rear. Rats, ducks and swans are great devourers of the spawn of river fish. Mr. Milbourne, the Thames water-bailiff, speaking of swans says, "Lord bless you, Sir! they not only eat the spawn, but they eat nearly all of it. The number of swans already between Walton and Staines is beyond belief. They swarm there; and if they're to be allowed to breed, we shall have such a mass of swans that the river will be regularly smothered with them. Suppose they do not know where nor how to find the spawn? Gammon! Don't a donkey know where to look for thistles? and don't I know where beefsteaks grow?" Two hundred swans, according to a calculation of Mr. Francis, devour in a single fortnight trout spawn containing one hundred and forty millions of eggs! Certainly this is an enormous price to pay for the pleasure of seeing swans floating double, swan and shadow! Fish-growers after this can scarcely be blamed for pronouncing sentences of death against swans, which henceforth as the real culprits must pay the penalty; and the water-ouzel, hitherto shot as an enemy of the fish spawn, must be cherished as a friend, for the ouzel catches the insects which feed on the spawn.

There has been an immense waste of oyster spawn going on for years as well as of other precious ova; and Prof. Coste, whose studies as an embryologist impressed his mind with this fact, has been a benefactor to mankind by calling attention to it. Beyond this lesson—the great one, indeed, which in the present day physiology is teaching to industry—English oyster-growers have, we suspect, nothing to learn from their French emulators. The vulgarization of oysters in Paris has been one of the labours of the Third Napoleon. Remembering what prominent features oysters, whelks, and periwinkles are of the food of the Londoner, the returned Bonapartists, grateful, let us hope, for many a pleasant if frugal meal in the evil days of exile, ordered small hampers of oysters, wrapped in straw, to be regularly distributed among the wine-shops of the French metropolis. Ignorant of the art of opening them by cutting the abductor muscle, the wine-shop keepers opened them by cutting the hinge; and never having heard of fattening them in salt-water and oatmeal, the oysters were exposed in the sun in their straw hampers, and great stones were laid upon them to prevent their gaping like ignorant rustics! Londoners have already learnt from Parisians to enjoy chestnuts roasted at the corners of the streets, but Parisians, we fear, have been much slower in learning to eat periwinkles, whelks and oysters. They have yet to learn how to prepare delicious natives for wealthy tables. The French have, indeed, allowed sponges and worms, with reckless dredgers, to destroy several of their most valuable oyster-banks. In the Bay of St. Brieuc, for example, 15 oyster-banks gave employment to 1,400 men, manning 200 boats; and the destruction of the oyster-banks reduced the numbers of the men to 300 and of the boats to 20. M. Coste then interfered for the protection

of the spawn. An oyster, he said, produce 2,000,000 of eggs, which rise up like clouds of dust; and if this seed is protected, oysters will cover every rock from Dieppe to Havre, from Havre to Cherbourg, and from Cherbourg to Rochelle. The Emperor adopting the suggestions of the embryologist, old oyster-shells were laid down upon the exhausted banks; the gravid oysters were then deposited, and long lines of hurdles, made of twigs with their bark on, were ranged and fastened, floating just above the oysters to catch the spawn clouds. And then, six months having hardly elapsed, the breeding oysters, the oyster-shells, and even the strand itself, were found covered with oysterlings!

"Never (exclaims M. Coste, in a Report to the Emperor) did Cancale and Granville, at the time of their highest prosperity, exhibit such a spectacle of productiveness. Every part of the hurdles is loaded with clusters of oysters in such profusion as to resemble the trees of our orchards, when in spring their branches are covered with a profusion of blossom. They should be termed actual petrifications. Seeing is necessary to believing such wonders. I have sent to your Majesty one of these apparatus for collecting seed, in order that with your own eyes you may judge of the riches of these hurdles. The young oysters which cover them are already of the size of from two to three centimetres. These, then, are fruits which only require eighteen months in order to ripen into an immense harvest. There are even 20,000 in a single hurdle, which occupies not more space in the water than is occupied by a stalk of corn in a field. Now, 20,000 edible oysters are worth 400 francs; their current price, when bought on the spot, being 20 francs per 1,000. The revenue from this species of industry will consequently be inexhaustible; for we can submerge as many seed-collecting apparatus as we choose, and each adult, forming part of the deposit, produces at least 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 of embryos. The Bay of St. Brieuc will thus become an actual granary of abundance if, by the union of the banks already created, we convert the whole of it into a vast field of production."

French *savants* are proverbially sanguine; but there can scarcely be a doubt of the success of precautions for the preservation of spawn. Care of this kind always pays. The French process of greening oysters is little known in England, and the testimonies of the few Englishmen who have eaten greened oysters are not in their favour. Quality, however, is an important consideration in reference to oysters, for one "native" commands the price of four "commons" or "barleys" in Billingsgate Market; and quality depends on culture. If the price of "commons" and "barleys" be 10s. a bushel, the price of natives will be 40s. or two guineas. In addition to protecting the spawn, improving the quality, and destroying the enemies of the oysters, there is a question which is well worthy of the attention of the gentlemen who occupy themselves with the naturalization of new species—Can the Virginian oyster be acclimatized upon the southern coasts of England or Ireland?

London Vestries and their Sanitary Work: Are they willing and able to do it? And may they be trusted in the face of a severe Epidemic? Being a Speech delivered August 8th, 1865, at a Meeting of the Vestry of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark. By W. Rendle. (Churchill & Sons.)

WITHOUT warmth or any touch of exaggeration, let us state the case against a prosperous and influential representative of several equally prosperous and influential persons, who, though they cannot be said to form a distinct social "class," are sufficiently numerous and combined to form an important and dangerous "party" in

the local parliaments that greatly control the action of metropolitan parishes. Somewhere within the limits of that aggregation of cities, boroughs, and suburban neighbourhoods to which country cousins apply the name London, the influential person of whom we are thinking owns three or four blocks of houses in an undrained yard, and the dwellings standing in certain alleys that lead from adjacent streets into this yard. The domestic arrangements of the "property" differ widely from those of more favoured spots. Holding sanitary reformers in contempt, it muddles on from year to year without drains, without a supply of water, without any of the means requisite for the preservation of health and decency. When a sharp wind is screaming in the adjacent streets scarce a single breath of it strays up the alleys to disturb the fetid vapours of the yard. From the two narrow, tortuous passages daylight is permanently excluded; and in the brightest time of midsummer the sun's rays do not rest upon the filthy kennel of the yard for more than an hour or so during each day. Generations have entered the world and perished since "the property" smelt a pot of paint or was tickled by the brush of a lime-washer. Who lives in this agreeable retreat? Thieves, felons avoiding the police, outcasts? By no means. The "property" is tenanted by industrious workmen and their families,—by people who have nothing in common with the criminal classes. Lying in a quarter of the town where the demand for labour is considerable and domestic accommodation for labourers is small, it is populous with artisans, charwomen, and "hands" who are glad to pay high rents for rooms which enable them to "live near their work,"—and to die near it also. Some three years since typhus fever appeared in the yard,—a workman, the father of three young children and the husband of a sickly wife, being the first victim. This case attracted the notice of the parish officers, who were required to move a destitute woman and three children to the workhouse; it moreover came to the notice of the officer of health, who forthwith showed the owner that unless he purified his property it would become a sink of disease. The owner promised to think about it and do something—by-and-by. To a request that he would lime-wash the room in which the death had occurred, he also answered that he would—think about it and do something by-and-by. Unfortunately, before the owner had done anything,—before the typhus-struck family had been for three days removed to the workhouse, where they sowed the seeds of a rare typhus harvest,—a new lot of tenants, a mechanic and his family fresh up from the country, entered the infected lodgings, and hung their clothes upon the walls recently covered with morbid particles. Is it matter for surprise that before six more weeks had elapsed this mechanic fresh up from the country died like the previous occupant of the quarters? Again the owner was implored to lime-wash and drain; and again he promised to think about it and do something—by-and-by. The officer of health was a true prophet; the disease having found such eligible quarters for its destructive work has remained there until the present time. For three years it has been in the yard and alleys, and it is as active there now as ever. Of those who in that space of time caught typhus in "the property," many recovered after their removal to places where they planted the disease from which it has been their good fortune to escape; but thirty persons died either in the yard or in hospitals,—thirty persons who, had the "property" been cleansed and drained, might be enjoying life and doing valuable work at the present time. If the cost to which the

country has already been put by the doings of typhus in this single patch of leasehold estate were added to the cost which the country *will* probably endure in dealing with the consequences of those same doings, the sum total of the bill would infuriate reluctant ratepayers. But let us fix our attention on one part of the evil done, —the death of thirty human creatures. Let no one blink the fact that those thirty people were killed needlessly, that the price of each life was about 15*l.*, that they were poisoned and sent to the next world by a prosperous man, who, though he was thoroughly aware of the consequences of his parsimony, allowed things, and typhus amongst them, to take their own course, when he should have spent four or five hundred pounds on his "property." In fairness to this person, who is ready to kill his fellow-creatures at 15*l.* a head, we should say that he expresses great concern for the late lamentable occurrences on his little estate, and declares his firm intention—to think about it and do something by-and-by.

Instead of stigmatizing this influential person with an ugly name, let us ask how the world treats him. The law deals sharply with butchers who sell impure meat. The baker who should for a consideration put arsenic in loaves offered to the public would soon suffer condign punishment. Not much would be given for the reputation and life of a wine-merchant who should deliberately season his old port with antimony. But how does society treat the wholesale lodging-house keeper who wittingly supplies his customers with fatally poisoned lodgings? Is he branded an enemy of the race, and rewarded with the halter or the cat? Far from it. Society delights to honour him, to place him in office, to clothe him with power whereby he can increase the virulence of the poisons in which he deals, and can support his friends who, in spite of clamour, are drawing fine incomes from capital invested in low house-property. Society says to him, "You, Sir, know so well how greatly the poor districts of your parish need drainage and purification, we therefore empower you to obstruct every measure that aims at the sanitary improvement of those districts. Having a vested interest in the most pestiferous house-property of your neighbourhood, you are by us, your admirers, exalted to the high office of vestryman of your parish, in order that you may do your utmost to raise the mortality of your district and the balance at your banker's. You will meet with some annoyance from a few officious vestrymen who persist in talking about their duty to the public; but by combining with those of your parochial chamber who either, like yourself, have vested interests in ill-drained streets or are constitutionally adverse to all measures for improvement, you will contrive to render such agitators powerless. Should your officer of health show an inclination to be busy, you must pooh-pooh his reports and laugh at his fears; should he manifest a malignant determination to do his duty like an honest man, you must effect a reduction in his salary. If this treatment should not render him respectful to your 'vestried' interests, you must goad and insult him into throwing up his post, or even induce your fellow-vestrymen to request him to retire from office."

It is needless to say that the foregoing picture does not point at any single person, public or private, but is directed at a system fruitful of sorrow and humiliation. In their sanitary work the London vestries have, upon the whole, broken down deplorably; and the sooner they are deprived of their powers for *insanitary* mischief the better for the public. Local control in such matters would be well enough, if

the local boards were invariably composed of the most intelligent, benevolent, and high-principled parishioners. But unfortunately the best men of a London parish—gentlemen of enlightenment, independence, and morality—seldom trouble themselves about "parish matters"; and consequently, an average vestry is composed for the most part of persons who are unfit for the really important work which at the present time devolves upon men in their official position. Amongst our existing metropolitan vestrymen there are many gentlemen of whom it would be altogether unjust to speak with disrespect; but the vestries comprise also many supine and listless members, who by defect of natural shrewdness, as well as by defect of education, are unable to discharge the functions imposed upon them. Moreover, it is notorious that the vestries comprise persons who systematically, and in many cases successfully, thwart the endeavours of those fellow-vestrymen who are labouring in the right direction. By acting on the indolence of supine and the prejudices of thoughtless members, these energetic opponents of reform contrive to defeat vestrymen of the better sort. Hence it arises that instead of doing their appointed sanitary work, the London vestries are too often found in open opposition to the measures which they have been empowered to carry out.

At the present time, when public attention has been especially called to the subject of this article, readers should glance at Mr. Rendle's address. As a late officer of health who has experienced acrimonious opposition from a section of a London vestry, and as a thoroughly enlightened advocate of sanitary reform, he is a witness of mark. His pamphlet contains a letter from Mr. Horace Jeaffreson, who, writing from the London Fever Hospital, says—"If infected houses were scrubbed and lime-washed from top to bottom, and kept empty afterwards for not less than ten days only, there is no doubt that they would become safe habitations, if decent sanitary regulations were subsequently enforced. Sanitary inspectors should keep a close watch over the books which show the localities from whence fever cases are removed here, and on the occurrence of even one case have the spot thoroughly investigated, and, if necessary, emptied, repaired, and cleansed. By such means I have not a doubt that at least 50 per cent. of the typhus cases and typhus mortality might be prevented. The spots in London from which patients are sent here are so limited in area, though widely yet not diffusely spread, that I have perfect confidence that fairly energetic sanitary measures would be fully competent to meet the main evil." Let owners of "low house-property" bear these words in mind.

NEW NOVELS.

Oswald Hastings; or, the Adventures of a Queen's Aide-de-Camp. By Capt. W. W. Knollys, 93rd Sutherland Highlanders. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THE lightness which was the most agreeable quality of 'Misses and Matrimony' re-appears in this brisk, rattling, go-a-head story of military life and success, by a writer who has personally seen much of that about which he writes, and can, moreover, write well about that which he has personally seen. The hero, who gives the book its name, reminds us of the lucky, handsome, fearless, all-conquering heroes who, in the novels of a past period, used to break their necks without killing themselves, and spring from indigence to wealth and from obscurity to renown in a fashion calculated to inspire the most despondent of penniless out-

casts with fresh hope and confidence. Like those brilliant impersonations of good fortune, on whom romantic literature has turned its back in these later years, Oswald Hastings wins whatever he sighs for, thrashes whomsoever he fights, and after passing through a series of astounding adventures, thrilling perils, and intoxicating triumphs, marries his first love at the end of the third volume, and, without having lost aught of his good looks, high spirits, and sound digestion, retires to a fine estate and an idolizing tenantry. This is the man every one would like to know; and, so cleverly is he introduced in these pages, he may be thoroughly known by all readers who can honestly surrender themselves to the illusions of a novel, and can refrain from measuring every incident of its chapters by the inch-rule of prosaic experience. Never breathed a more generous, superb, muscular fellow. Perfect in sword-exercise, fatally certain with the revolver, sure in the saddle, bewitching as sweet music in the ball-room, terrible in the field of battle, he slays whom he wills to slay, and fascinates all whom he cares to make his own. The list of his gallant deeds comprises heroism enough for a score of heroes. Wherever he goes he rescues an unfortunate person from imminent death. Now he saves a young lady from the envenomed fangs of a mad dog; a brief interval of time, and having taken a header from a troop-ship into the yeasty sea, he preserves a comrade's infant from a watery grave; anon, he bears away the fairest and loveliest of her sex from a host of infuriated Kaffirs. Wherever virtue needs a defender, the irrepressible Oswald leaps upon the scene, and strikes out with a precision that, in three minutes, would take daylight from the eyes of the Benicia Boy. The number of cases where he floors an opponent by a well-directed left-hander is matter for conjecture rather than exact calculation; and even more marvellous than the frequency of his valorous exploits is the good fortune which invariably brings him to the fray at the exact moment when he is most needed. When the two garotters seize an old gentleman in a corner of Berkeley Square, of course Oswald comes to the rescue with his usual success. Having felled one of the assailants by a blow, he grapples with the other ruffian. "Oswald," continues the historian of the encounter, "had been brought up in a county where wrestling was much cultivated, and his knowledge of the art proved useful to him on the present occasion. Dizzy as he was from the blow on his head, he instinctively put his science into practice, and, after a sharp tussle, brought his adversary heavily to the ground. Kneeling on his chest, with both his hands on the robber's throat, he threatened to strangle him if he ventured to move, and shouted loudly for assistance. His cries soon brought a policeman and one or two gentlemen to the spot, and the two ruffians were at once seized." It is almost needless to observe that the old gentleman who is thus snatched from the jaws of death soon falls a victim to influenza, and leaves a will whereby Oswald steps into six thousand a year.

It may not, however, be supposed that this luckiest of heroes meets with no reverses. He endures mishaps; but his discontents never grow into calamities. From every embarrassment into which he falls a kind fate speedily frees him. Thus, when he has had the imprudence to marry a woman without having learnt to love her thoroughly, she has the good sense and taste to die at the first convenient opportunity, leaving him at liberty to make a happier choice. Again, his passion for Haidee, the fairest Peri of the wealthy Osman's harem, is disastrous, for Haidee's husband sews her up

in a sack and throws her into the Bosphorus; but Oswald contrives to escape from Osman's burning house, and subsequently reaps a rich harvest of promotion and glory in the Crimean war.

At the end of the story matter-of-fact readers will ask themselves how much resemblance to the possibilities and probabilities of real life there is in the imaginary experiences of a hero who, having enlisted as a private in a marching regiment, rises in the course of a few years to be a colonel and C.B. But whilst the tale is being read no one will care to pause in the brisk current of desperate perils, narrow escapes, and exciting adventures, and ask common sense to say where the author is at fault. Whilst it is under perusal the narrative takes possession of the reader; and after perusal it seems to say, "Now make no small objections; you have been amused, and therefore be grateful." Here and there the book contains some powerful writing. For instance, the chapters on the Crimean war, and the account of Oswald's escape from the Kaffirs with the girl who becomes his first wife, are very good. In all places where it raises questions relating to military life the tone of the book is excellent. With young soldiers 'Oswald Hastings' will be popular, and it will be heard of in drawing-rooms.

Miss Forrester: a Novel. By Mrs. Edwards. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

THERE is a low condition of moral health which will readily develop into specific vices. The female writers of fiction of the present day are, with few exceptions, doing their utmost to bring about this state of things. There may not, in their books, be any one scene or incident that transgresses the bounds of conventional decorum, but there is a total absence of all noble and heroic element. In these novels women recognize a startling amount of badness and baseness, not as evil to be hated and protested against, but with quiet, callous unconsciousness of what is right and what is wrong. The low tone of morality in novels re-acts upon the readers, tends to weaken their judgment and to obscure the light of conscience within them. Ideality seems to have perished out of the modern novel, and it has given place to an all-pervading subtle sensuality. In the descriptions of persons and their qualities, of scenes and incidents, it is sought to produce the sensation of strong feeling and emotion by suggestive epithets, which serve the purpose of thought, or save the need to call things by their right names. The luxurious surroundings, the dress, the decorations of the rooms and persons of the heroes and heroines are dwelt upon with minuteness and at length; at every turn some personal charm or gesture is introduced, whilst the colour of a curtain in the background, or the fold of a mantle, is put in to mitigate the wickedness of a word or a deed. Golden hair is become as plentiful in the modern female novel, as if some new gold-field had been discovered and thrown open; it is introduced on all occasions, and serves every purpose that the "soul looking from the eyes" used to do in former days. It moves to love; it averts wrath; it atones for sins of all kinds; and the escape of a golden tress, with sunbeams in it, at some moment of supreme wickedness, is used as an extenuating circumstance,—or at least it is waved before the reader to bewilder his judgment. The prattle about "golden locks," and "yellow hair looking like floss silk," almost makes us hate that beautiful tint, as Peggy hated the smell of roses. We would sooner read of silver-grey hair, for we might hope to find some wisdom along with it; or at least a small amount of common sense.

The author of the series of novels beginning with 'The Morals of May Fair,' and of which 'Miss Forrester' is the latest, is guilty in an eminent degree of the faults we have alluded to. Mrs. Edwards, who now gives her name for the first time, has written novels of great ability, but all distinguished by the absence of ordinary moral sensibility. 'Miss Forrester' is a very exciting story; it is well told, and that disguises its absolute absurdity; but it is bad with the badness of utter immorality, with the all-pervading influence of—yellow hair!—the one redeeming personality of the heroine. The motto affixed to the book enters the plea of fatalism on her behalf; it is taken from 'Esmond,' and is to the effect, "that the leopard follows her nature as the lamb does, and acts after leopard law, and can neither help her beauty nor her courage nor her cruelty." This was never intended by its author as a serious apology; at any rate, it only holds good for the leopard. Human beings, who are endowed with "a reasonable soul," come under quite other laws than the leopard's. To appeal to the propriety of the natures appointed to wild beasts as an excuse for men and women, is a piece of foolish and wilful sophistry. But now for the amiable leopardess. Miss Forrester is the hired companion of a whimsical old lady, who has made her life such a burden that, when her patroness falls ill, Miss Forrester, to all outward seeming, nurses her like a daughter, whilst, in reality, she allows her to die, gradually starved to death; but, then, the young woman herself had a perfect figure, "unwhaleboned, untrammelled,"—her foot was a model, arched, small, and singularly full of character in its short elastic tread." "You never tired of looking at Honoria Forrester's face; every day you got to learn something that charmed you afresh, either in its features or expression. A complexion of delicate pink and white, perfect small square teeth, firm red lips, and hair, not very profuse in quantity, but exquisitely fine, and yellow as fresh spun silk;" her eyes had an expression that by turns repulsed or fascinated you at will. Added to all this, Miss Forrester was an adept in the art of embellishing Nature; "she gloried in putting the last cunning touch that transformed her face from mere commonplace beauty into irresistible piquancy, and a freshness more natural than Nature itself." "Sleep and digestion never forsook Honoria Forrester under any crisis of her life. Had they done so," says the author, "she had probably been a better woman, so indissolubly connected is dyspepsia with our sense of right and wrong."

Such is the heroine; but we complain that, armed with these irresistible attractions, with powers of mind to correspond, and entirely delivered from even the rudiments of a conscience, she achieves so little, and that so incompletely. Miss Forrester desires, above all things, to become—respectable! Her antecedents are left in shadow, but one would have thought that she might have made a good marriage without so much elaborate effort. She had come to Mrs. Forsyth with seven years' character from a ladies' school, where she had been French teacher,—at least, so say her testimonials; but her private trunks are filled with bouquets and testimonials of quite another kind. She has evidently at one time been a dancer on the French stage; she is, when the tale opens, in the hope of making a good marriage with an English gentleman who has frequented Mrs. Forsyth's house, and who admires her, but has no matrimonial intentions at all. The story turns upon the trial of strength between them: Honoria Forrester intends to marry Henry Bryanstone, whilst Henry Bryan-

stone does not intend to marry her or any one else. He is a well-described character, but with the low moral tone predominating, which the author seems to consider indicative of her knowledge of human nature. An unhealthy atmosphere pervades the whole story, and makes it at once unnatural and unpleasant; there is not one hearty human element in it. The people who are intended to represent the ordinary men and women of every day are no better than Honoria Forrester—they are only less clever; and when the reader sees how selfish, mean, ungenerous and worthless they all are, his sympathy goes with Miss Forrester in her battle against them; none of them excites the least interest except one little girl, who falls in love of her own accord with Henry Bryanstone. Miss Forrester finds difficulties; she has been too well known in her former career, though it does not seem to have been very successful; old and unprofitable lovers are continually cropping up and needing money. Her old patroness, Mrs. Forsyth, left her a legacy of 2,000/., and with this for a foundation she might have done better than she did. A man named Lumley, who hates Henry Bryanstone, recognizes Honoria as having been a decoy at the gambling-table in Homburg, and he joins his revenge to her schemes; they play into each other's hands, and after one or two failures Honoria barely succeeds, and becomes by stratagem the wife of Henry Bryanstone quite against his wish—but he promises when drunk, and keeps his word when sober. There is a great lack of skill in the management of the second portion of the story. The author does not keep her grasp upon the incidents, and the outline of the design becomes blurred and indistinct. The character of Honoria is not well sustained; she loses her talent, and bores her husband by her want of intelligence, though her yellow hair still comes into play. He suspects that she has given him a false account of herself, and he takes elaborate pains to trace her antecedents. Honoria tries to baffle him, but she is harassed and hampered by former associates, especially by one whom she has duped into a marriage with another woman, and betrayed to the police afterwards; but the author has evidently not clearly determined what Honoria's real history was to be, and cannot, therefore, tell it clearly to the reader. A grand catastrophe makes an end of Honoria and her yellow hair together, with all those who could tell anything to her dishonour. Henry Bryanstone marries the faithful Nelly, but as in the course of things he has got severely wounded in a duel, his happiness does not promise to last long. The tale of 'Miss Forrester' is unhealthy; it has not the excuse of being a study of morbid anatomy of human nature, for the characters are utterly unreal. Mrs. Edwards is not true to herself nor to the talents intrusted to her: in writing such novels as 'Miss Forrester' she is employing them to do mischief to the utmost of her power.

Joseph, Charles and Horace Vernet—[Joseph, Charles et Horace Vernet: Correspondance et Biographies, par Amédée Durand]. (Paris, Hetzel; London, Jeffs.)

[Second Notice.]

WHEN genius, vivacity of temperament, strong affections, good health, and common sense are united in the person of one individual, as they were in Horace Vernet, the result can hardly be other than success and happiness. The story of his life, then, is one singularly pleasant to follow—to be read with scarcely a passing heartache. The only circumstance which can be named as a trial (at least till Time wrought his inevitable work by thinning as bright a

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circle as ever made a famous man's home happy) was the state of aberration in which the last years of Charles Vernet's life passed—as we mentioned in our former notice of M. Durande's charming volume.

Of the three distinguished men of the name, this Charles seems to have been the most unequal and difficult, it may be said, of character. Then his lot was cast in the troubled times of the Revolution and the Empire—a period in no respect favourable for the training of a man who was neither to be a politician nor a soldier.

M. Durande's memoir informs us that the general education of Horace was neglected. He regrets this himself in one of those warm-hearted and delightful letters which give contradiction to his modest plea of incompetence with the pen. Even as an artist, though he showed signs of precocious genius, as Joseph and Charles had done before him, he was irregularly trained, and began to make his pictures, says his biographer, "much as an apple-tree produces apples"; when he was twelve years of age selling his drawings for twelve francs a piece. He was destined by his father to be an engraver; but presently took the matter into his own hands, and having made a love-match with an amiable girl, Louise Pujol, started in the battle of life with forty sous in his pocket. He died the possessor of a vast fortune.—

His studio in the Rue des Martyrs was a veritable curiosity. He has preserved the physiognomy of it in a picture, which the engraver has popularized. One would never have thought that the people found there were assembled to do work. Horace Vernet, with his cigarette in his mouth and his palette in hand, was fencing with an old officer of the Empire, M. Ledieu, now the director of the *Mont de Piété*. M. Amédée Beauplan was playing on the piano, M. Eugène Lami was blowing a trumpet, and, by his side, M. Montcarville was beating a big drum. Then there was a group of talkers; General Boyer, M. de Lionne, Baron Athalin, M. de Lariboissière, the famous engraver Jazet, M. Couturier de Sainte-Claire, Colonel Bro, and the two brothers of Madame Vernet—the MM. Pujol. Ladurner was walking about with an ape on his shoulder; M. Guyot, while turning over an album, was teasing a bulldog; a horse called the Regent, which had been given by the Duke of Orleans to Horace Vernet, served for model. [The studio, it is explained in a note, was on the *rez-de-chaussée*.] Colonel Langlois, in his police uniform, was reading the paper, already dreaming of the magnificent panoramas he has since shown us; Dr. Héault was examining a skull in his hand; M. Duchesne was practising with the foils; two painters, MM. Montfort and Lehoux, naked to the waist, were warming themselves at the stove, waiting to box when the passage of arms of their master had terminated; one young man alone was obstinately working in the midst of this *tohu bohu*. This was M. Robert Fleury.

The above is a tolerably lively illustration of the "vivacity" which, till the end of his life, was so marking a characteristic of Horace Vernet. But the common sense which also was strong and active within him warned him that these Bohemian delights had their season, and that a man with his foot on the ladder has work to do more serious than keeping a jovial studio, and fencing and working by fits. In 1820, Horace Vernet made a solid step upwards by his first journey to Rome. Can anything be more genuine, more gracious, than the following letter, addressed by him to his grand-uncle, Livio (Louis) Vernet, Joseph's elder brother, who held some small military and official appointment in the provinces?—

Rome, 1820.

Dear Uncle, how many thanks do I not owe you for the letter you have addressed to us in Rome! You (in the original "thou" throughout, Ed.) know what happiness one feels, when far away, to receive letters from the persons one loves.

You can then judge of my delight in receiving yours. We have made a charming journey, and, what is remarkable, my father is not too exacting, and we are in the best mutual understanding. Thus, you see, nothing would be wanting to me were you all with me. I am going to set to painting; I have a craving to do so! You must think that I cannot be in a country which has inspired so many painters without feeling some influence, and I hope my first attempt may succeed. I think to paint *la masque*, otherwise the start of the horses for the races of the Carnival. *A propos* of Carnival, you have had a sad one in Paris. What a hideous catastrophe! (the assassination of the Due de Berri). We only got the news at Naples; my father was overwhelmed. You know what his relations with the Prince had been, and can judge of the effect on him which such a catastrophe must produce. We were present at the service which took place in San Luigi dei Francesi. This ceremony may have been good for the soul of the defunct; but for those who took part in it such a thing was in the highest degree absurd,—above all, in Italy, where it had more the air of a festival than of a funeral ceremony. When shall we be philosophical enough to weep without ostentation and setting our lamentations to music? I hope to gather a rich harvest from this journey, not only in the matter of art, but also in that of self-knowledge. It is in the conflict of passions that one distinguishes those which lead you to good from those which will carry you on in a mistaken road. I have made my observations, and I hope to turn them to good account. And then it is time to think seriously, for age can arrive without our knowing it, and when one makes an effort to become better, strength fails one, and there is no power of pulling up. We have been about a good deal to see the houses which my grandfather inhabited,—that where you were born and that where you were baptized. All these things have a great charm for me. I regret not to be able to make you partake of them, but my bad education deprives me of the power of expressing what I feel. Expressions fail me, and when, by chance, they do come, often I do not know how to write them. Then I become disgusted, and throw away the pen, and rely on my actions to prove to those I love that I live only for them, and that my greatest happiness is when I perceive that they feel it.

This first visit to Rome was not of long duration. Eight years later, however, Horace Vernet, who had by this time become "a personage," was appointed to succeed Guérin, as the head of the French Academy there. For a time, too, after the revolution of 1830, on the withdrawal of the Ambassador to Naples, he was the only official representative of his country near the papal throne. How well he fulfilled the duties of his position, and how liberal and charming was the hospitality he exercised, was told us the other day in the delightful letters of Mendelssohn; who never, in after years, could speak of the Vernet house without his face lighting up with pleasure. But Horace had more than facility of pencil and social vivacity to make him of weight and value. How sound were his views of Art may be gathered from his correspondence with M. Thiers. That distinguished politician, then in office, meddled in Art, not very wisely—and more authoritatively than courteously as regarded the head of the French Academy. He had charged Sigalon, the painter, with the impossible task of copying Michael Angelo's "Last Judgment" in the Sistine Chapel. The scheme was disapproved of by Vernet, who received a letter from Thiers, reminding him, in phrase more curt than civil, that "he was a great artist and not an administrator," trying to prove that his objections to the state of the original were good for nothing—accusing him of influencing Sigalon to indifference and disobedience—and roundly declaring that, come what would, some one should make a copy of the picture for France.

To this positive gentleman, Vernet replied in language no less positive than his own. After treating other topics:—

As to the affair of "The Last Judgment," (he says,) it is another matter. On this ground, I am no longer a subordinate.—First, there has never been any connivance betwixt myself and Sigalon; he is more impatient than ever to fulfil his mission. Secondly, far from seeking to diminish his zeal, as your Excellency seems to fear, I have assisted him with all my might to smooth away the difficulties without number which the Court of Rome raises, day by day. Nevertheless, if out of respect to the intentions of the Government, I do not disclose my entire opinions, face to face, with a comrade, whose talent and person I alike esteem, it does not follow that I must not utter an opinion on the uselessness of the commission with which he has been charged, and on the immorality (if I may dare employ the expression) of giving to posterity a picture entirely new, thus compromising the reputation of the original author. There are certain reputations which ought to be respected. The vitiated state of "The Last Judgment" places the copyist under the necessity of restoring a large part of it: and if even he could improve it (supposing such a thing possible) he could never give anything but a false idea of this masterpiece to persons who have not seen it. Those who know it would not recognize it again. Allow me to say, M. le Ministre, a copy is not to be made. To compare it to a translation is a mistake; one ceases to interpret when one is obliged to create. To wish to replace, in a work by Michael Angelo, that which three ages have effaced, is to wish to fill in their own languages the blanks of those Greek and Latin authors, of whom fragments only have come down to us. Michael Angelo himself, as if he could foresee the danger to which he would one day be exposed, refused to re-make the arms of the "Venus," and to restore the antique "Tosco," which he had drawn more than thirty times; and it was the artist of the "Moses," and the Medici Chapel, who gave this lesson of respect and of modesty!

The above spirited and unanswerable reply had no effect on the obstinacy of M. Thiers,—and the result was the abominable copy now to be seen in the School of Fine Arts.

Few will wonder that a functionary, liable to such supervision, and whose ideas of the dignities and duties of Art were, throughout life, pitched high, should have found his post at Rome an imprisonment. Vernet was too glad to hand it over to M. Ingres, and to indulge his taste for change by the travels during which he amassed so rich a store of characteristic materials. His journeys to Algiers, to the East, and to Russia, (where he was in first favour with the Emperor) are described in a series of lively and loving letters, addressed to his wife, and to the Delaroche, his daughter and son-in-law. For the last-named member of his family he entertained as much admiration as affection. It may not be amiss to recall this; seeing that there is not a word from Horace Vernet's pen on the subject of Art, which cannot be accredited as sound; and seeing that since Delaroche's death, an attempt to undervalue the painter of the "Death of the Duke de Guise," and "Napoleon in Defeat," has been made on the part of certain French critics, with no better object than to inflate the reputation of another deceased French painter, Delacroix. Nothing is easier than the cant of partisanship; but such writers as M. Théophile Silvestre, who pretend to authority and clear-sightedness, should disdain its adoption.

Wherever he went Horace Vernet was sure of a cordial reception. He made fast friends among the Arabs; he was loaded with honours by the soldiers and sailors of his own country; he was trusted by sovereigns no less redoubtable than the Emperor of Russia and the King of the French. The latter gave him those vast com-

missions for the battle-gallery in Versailles which no other artist of our time could have executed so well; the former consulted the painter as to the decorations of his capital, and made him the companion of one of those journeys of inspection which Nicholas took from time to time. This, again, was graphically described for the benefit of the home circle; but we can only refer to the letters, since the last extract we shall give has perhaps greater peculiarity than the best pen-and-ink sketch of cities, manners, receptions and reviews. The death of the Duke of Orleans in July, 1842, took place while Vernet was at St. Petersburg in attendance on the Czar:—

At a reception in the palace (the painter noted in a sort of diary), the Emperor, traversing the crowd, came and took my hand. He drew me into the recess of a window, and said,—"Here again is your unfortunate King exposed to a blow more terrible than any which has as yet fallen on him. The death of the Duke of Orleans is an enormous loss, not only for his father and for France, but for all of us. Is it possible to count on a Regency which must be established at a moment when nothing is prepared? For how prepare a thing which depends on the circumstances under which it presents itself?"—I replied that I understood politics little, but that there were circumstances which put sovereigns and subjects on the same level; that the hearts of all fathers were the same; and that the one who is spared owes assistance to him who is torn by misfortune; that the consoler might to-morrow himself stand in need of consolation; that I asked His Majesty to postpone the sittings for his portrait for a month, since my duty called me to Paris, that at least, if I could not approach the King, he might see from a distance that I uncovered my head before his misfortune. The Emperor then said, with every outward sign of real emotion, "Go; it is what a loyal man ought to do. If you see the King of the French, assure him that I take part in his sorrow; say everything to him that can make him understand the esteem I have for his great virtues and for the firmness of his character." The Emperor held my hand, tears were in our eyes, and we remained for some minutes without speaking. When I was able to speak, I asked him if he authorized me to repeat this conversation entire—and without hesitation he answered, "I not only authorize, I charge you, if other things....." He said no more. Everybody witnessed this scene, which lasted more than twenty minutes. At length the Empress, seeing the Emperor wipe his eyes, came forward; "and I too," she said, "take part in the calamity which France deplores." I spoke to her of the grief of a mother, which she could so well enter into. "But you say nothing of that of a wife," was her answer; and she looked at the Emperor with so tender an expression that I reproached myself with not having earlier recollected that he was going to set out on a journey. *

Paris, Aug. 9, 1842.

I have been to the King, who received me. We were for some minutes choked with tears. Mine had been collecting during eight hundred leagues; but his.....I regretted to have provoked them, after all he must have shed. After a quarter of an hour of reference to the fatal event, expressed in regrets of the most touching eloquence, came the political question. The hope of a glorious reign vanished, every provision for the future destroyed, were the subject of a long lamentation: then I was able to deliver myself of the commission with which the Emperor had charged me. On this subject the King entered into diplomatic considerations beyond the limits of the part I am permitted to play under present circumstances. I said to the King that I would only charge myself with answer conformable to the message I had brought. After having approved this, the King went on: "Tell the Emperor that the vicissitudes which have marked my life, as a man and as a prince, have placed my character beyond the reach of my harbouring the slightest rancour against those who have thought fit to misunderstand my intentions. If his have changed with respect to me, tell him

that I am ready to return affection for affection. It is absurd to believe that force of character consists in not retracting opinions expressed at a given epoch,—when once the heart is convinced that such opinions should have been modified by circumstances. If it was so, what would be the good of discussion, and of the light springing from it? An autocrat can say what he will to his ministers; a constitutional king cannot. Let him then consent to write to me; though I am a constitutional king, I am not condemned to dumbness, and I will answer him. If he prefers to speak to me, say to him that I am ready to meet him wherever seems best; and to do everything which can unite two nations whose alliance is inevitable at some period, and which, had it existed long ago, would have simplified politics, and provided against all the evil which the misunderstanding that seems to exist between us has allowed to pervade social order: for, my dear Horace, the Emperor has done me much injury, and my unfortunate son died in the persuasion that he was excommunicated. It was fated that the proof to the contrary should arrive when it was too late for him to hear it."

We must stop here. Though we have only adverted to one important portion of the volume, the pictorial and personal correspondence of Horace Vernet, we have said enough in this and the former notice to direct attention to as pleasant a piece of family record as the annals of Art present. Let the connoisseur place the painter of the Smalah and the portrait of Frère Philippe where he may among the distinguished artists of the French school, he will not close the book, we are sure, without bringing from it a most favourable impression of the man.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Student's English Dictionary, Etymological, Pronouncing, and Explanatory. By John Ogilvie, LL.D. (Blackie & Son.)

There is an attempt, we think a tolerably successful attempt, in this little work, to combine to some extent the characters of a dictionary and an encyclopaedia. By dint of thin paper and careful binding no less than 814 pages are included in one small volume. Moreover, as the type is very small, the editor has been enabled to add, in many instances, short explanatory remarks and illustrations to the formal definitions usually contained in dictionaries. The usual plan is this. The word is described, first, as to pronunciation, secondly, as to the part of speech, thirdly, as to derivation, fourthly, as to the primary meaning, and, fifthly, as to the different senses in which custom has caused it to be used. In addition to all this, however, a few remarks and a little woodcut are often appended, especially in the case of objects of art and science, in order to make clear to the student that which a mere verbal definition might fail to explain. Thus, under the word "Cathedral," we find a delicate little

ground-plan of Wells Cathedral with the various parts lettered and marked out. The particular words for which pictorial illustration is used are usually selected with judgment. Thus, for the word "Lion" there is no woodcut, the editor probably considering that the king of the forest is sufficiently well known by sight already. "Kangaroo," on the other hand, is illustrated, and so are "Adjutant" and "Sword-fish." Again, "Carcass," in the sense of a burning shell, is illustrated, while the same word in its ordinary sense is not. In the case of words pertaining to particular pursuits, such as "Reef," "Capstan," the pictures sometimes throw a light which almost any amount of verbal explanation would fail to impart. We believe that this improvement in the art of dictionary-making is due to our cousins on the other side of the Atlantic, who, whatever may be their faults or weaknesses, have a marvellous knack of striking out a smart and practical idea. In some parts, the execution of this work has not been carried out with sufficient care. "Caryatides" ought not to be described as "an order of columns under the figures of women," a definition which, even if correct in intention, is quite unintelligible to the

reader. "Apteryx" is there as large as life, but "Dodo," "Racoon," "Tapir," "Emu," are not found in their places. "Groin" (Gothic architecture) is honoured with an illustration, while "clerestory" and "triforium" do not appear at all. The words "gladiate," "glairy," "glaucescent," are surely not of much use to any young student and the book might be made more serviceable to those for whom it is intended by omitting such words and inserting some that are now left out.

Engineering Facts and Figures for 1864: an Annual Register of Progress in Mechanical Engineering and Construction. Edited by Andrew Betts Brown, Mechanical Engineer. (Fullarton & Co.)

INTO this second volume of "Engineering Facts and Figures" Mr. Betts Brown has gathered passages from a large number of papers that were read and articles that were written on questions of engineering in the year 1864. The titles of the *fourteen divisions* under which this material is classified are: "Boilers, &c.," "Steam Engines," "Steam Fire-Engines, &c.," "Steam Hammers and Forging Machines," "Cables, Chains and Anchors," "Railways," "Ships," "Metals used in Construction," "Miscellaneous Notes upon the Modes of Working and Using of Iron," "Building Materials," "Bridges, Roofs, Reservoirs," "Agricultural Machinery," "Miscellaneous, Machinery in General, Machine Construction," "Miscellaneous." The volume contains, also, a few papers which, the editor observes in his Preface, "scarcely come within the period of time named in the title-page; but these, although post and in one or two instances ante-dated, were thought to be of such importance that a place for them here was deemed necessary." In taking papers from beyond the chronological lines of his undertaking Mr. Betts has acted unwisely. Each volume of his series should relate solely to the "Facts and Figures" of the year named in its title.

A Suffolk Large. By Quill. (Rogerson & Tuxford) THE author of these unusual and poor verses, which he ineptly terms "A Suffolk Large," has caught the dialect but not the spirit of East Suffolk. Strangely ignorant of the pursuits of the people whose district he seeks to illustrate, "Quill" is under the impression that farmers grow "malt." In his "Lines on the Repeal of the Hop Duty," the bard, with more fervour than accuracy of information, exclaims:—

Malt-growers arise! to the charge with a will!
If justice you wish to have done;
A good cause is yours, men; then rest not until
You've mastered the work you've begun!

Suffolk farmers are clever fellows, and they have good need to be clever in these hard times; but, Quill may take our word for it, clever though they are, they can no more "grow malt" than Lowestoft fishermen, who are equally clever fellows in their way, can "catch red herrings." Next time "Quill" drinks a mug of ale in Farmer Bacon's keeping-room, he will most likely have to endure some honest but not complimentary laughter from that hospitable worthy.

We have on our table, Vol. I. of a new and cheap edition of *A History of England during the Reign of George the Third*, by the Right Hon. W. Massey (Longmans).—The volume of *The Sunday Magazine for 1865*, edited by Thomas Guthrie, D.D. (Strahan & Co.).—*Meditations: in Advent, on Creation, and on Providence*, by Henry Alford, D.D. (Strahan).—*The Veil Withdrawn: an Essay on the First, Second, and Third Chapters of Genesis*, by M. E. Stone (Macintosh).—*A Triad of Essays to define the Inspiration of Nature, Genius, and Holy Scripture*, by "A Reconciler" (Murray & Co.).—*Britain: her Language and Relations to Europe and the World at Large; for the Use of Clergy, Professors, Literati, &c.* (Farncombe).—*The Prison Act, 1865* (28 & 29 Vict. c. 126), together with an Analysis of the Act, and the other Statutes and Sections of Statutes relating to Prisons still in Force, by Thomas William Saunders (Cox).—*On Modern Armies*, by Marshal Marmont, Due de Ragusa, translated by Capt. Lundy (Mitchell).—*Transactions of the Manchester Statistical Society, Session 1864-65* (Manchester, Cane & Sever).—*and Church Catechism in Answer to Spurgeon's Accusations*, by an Oxford M.A., with some Pre-

Historical Remarks on the Theology of the Ancients
(Murray & Co.).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS

THE STONE AGE.

Bath, Sept. 30, 1865.

A second excursion to Solsbury Hill has had the following results:—I have found a good many fragments of rude, sun-baked pottery, one of which bears the marks of smoke and fire on the inside, and another is similarly blackened on the outside. One small piece has been smeared over with some yellow pigment. I also discovered a piece of worked clay of a pointed red-like shape, besides another piece scooped out into a broad groove. Most of this pottery I obtained on the west side of the Hill, where there is a double rampart, the natural ascent being less steep and difficult here than it is on the other three sides. In one place I found fragments of charcoal and burnt bone mingled with the worked clay. There seems to be an almost inexhaustible store of bones, chiefly belonging to the domestic animals. Several of these are worked. One large bone was extracted from the foundation layer of loose colite under the clay *enceinte*. I also found a great number of teeth, besides part of the jawbone of a sheep. A tedious search, however, produced only two flints—one a finely-shaped spear-head, the other a very sharply-edged arrow-head, which I took out of the worked clay. The only thing else worth mentioning was a very perfect fossil shell of the *Rhynchonella*, which had once been exposed to the action of fire.

The people whose remains have been thus preserved were probably the same as the builders of the stone-circles at Avebury. Ptolemy (Geog. i. 7) describes *Ydara Θερμα*, or Bath, as a town of the Belgæ; and the Wansdyke, or Wodensdyke, which passes near it, is believed to have been the northern boundary of this tribe. But the fortification on the top of Solsbury could not have been the work either of the Belgæ or of the Celtic Britons, both of whom were acquainted with the use of metals. The dolichocephalic race and the cave-men are quite out of the question, their antiquity being far too great. There only remains, therefore, the brachycephalic race, the immediate predecessors of the Britons, who are identified with the *Kynete* of Herodotus by Prof. Phillips, and whose skulls have been found at Kellet, in Lancashire. P.

THE LAND OF GOSHEN.

Oct. 3, 1865.

THE present state of the Land of Goshen is so utterly unfit for supporting the thousands that lived there in the days of Moses, that I would still try and lure our scientific party round there, on their way to the Holy Land, in hopes of their mapping out the country for us east of the Delta, and showing us how far this line of country could ever have been inhabited. The extracts from Robinson, in the *Athenaeum* of September 16, are quite enough to show that he must have felt the impossibility of any number of people finding anything to eat or drink in such a land as this is now; but his suggestion that the Land of Goshen lay more to the west, more within the Delta, and in what is now the province of Es Shurkiyeh, is, as we shall see, quite at variance with what the Bible says, and with all the oldest traditions of the country itself, while it has also the great fault of not taking into account the numbers we have to deal with. For if six hundred thousand men were

draughted off to the brick-fields of Rameses out of the Land of Goshen, this must have been a country large enough and fertile enough for six hundred thousand families to spread abroad and thrive there. Yet the whole province of Es Shurkiyeh could not have held them, and all outside the Delta, we must remember, would scarcely feed a thousand families. It is true that they might have had the whole Delta to themselves, if the land of Egypt, in the Books of Moses, meant the whole valley of the Nile, from Migdol to Syene, as it did in the days of Ezekiel; but whatever Bruges and others may make out of the ages that Egypt has been all one kingdom, by stringing together a number of local dynasties in a line, when they might just as well have been tied together in a bunch, as contemporaries, it is only necessary to notice what waters were to be turned to blood in the days of Moses, to feel that the Delta, with the land to the east of it, must have been the whole of the land of Egypt in which the Pharaoh of those days had any interest. For though we read a great deal of the "river" in Exodus, and it is on all the "streams and rivers and ponds and pools" that Moses was to stretch out his hand, that there might be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, yet not one of these terms, in the Hebrew language, would mean the Nile itself. Where Moses speaks of the Euphrates, or the Tigris, or the Gihon of Ethiopia, he gives them the usual name for such rivers, of a *nahar*; but the only *nahar* he speaks of in Egypt is the Gihon of Ethiopia, which could be no other than the Nile itself. The greatest waters in which the Pharaoh had any interest in the days of Moses were only streams, or riveresses as they are termed; while the next waters in order of importance are termed rivers in our Bible, but were really no more than canals, as they are called in the Septuagint; and if the land of Egypt reached no further than to the riveresses or branches of the Nile, with the canals right and left of them about the Delta, the people of Pharaoh could scarcely have had more than room enough there for their own numbers, if they were anything like a match for the children of Israel; let alone the hundreds of thousands of families Robinson would crowd into Es Shurkiyeh. But, in point of fact, the Bible gives no countenance whatever for placing Goshen anywhere but on the line of road from Beersheba to Egypt. It is the land of Goshen Jacob was entering when he sent on Judah unto Joseph to direct his face unto Goshen; and as Joseph went "up" from Egypt to meet him there, the Land of Goshen must have been the country on the way down to Egypt. Goshen seems to have been a general name for the whole line of country from Egypt right up to the slopes of Judah; for in the Book of Joshua, "all the land of Goshen" is named between the south country and the valley as part of that land which Joshua took, when the battles of Moeom and of Hazor left him the land of Canaan at his command; so that Goshen was the border country between Egypt and Canaan. What part of this country it was where Joseph first wished to settle his father and his brethren, or whereabouts he was in Egypt when he went up to meet his father in the land of Goshen, are points which the Bible does not fix; but in the Septuagint both these points are stated; for where the Bible says only it was in Goshen that Joseph would have his father and brethren dwell, the Septuagint calls it Goshen of Arabia, Gen. xlvi. 10; or that part of this range of country which lay in what was then termed the province of Arabia. While instead of telling us only that Judah was sent before to Joseph to direct his face unto Goshen, the Septuagint volunteers the information that it was into the land of Rameses by Heropolis Judah was sent; so that if the Septuagint is to be trusted, the part of Goshen where Joseph went up to meet his father was on the way up between the land of Rameses by Heropolis in Egypt, and Beersheba, where Jacob was coming from, in the land of Canaan. And this is just where we should have placed the province of Arabia in Lower Egypt, from the place it holds in both the lists of those provinces that have come down to us from Pliny and from Ptolemy.

Now there certainly are points on which the

Septuagint ought not to be trusted. In the first chapter of Genesis the Seventy have done us a serious mischief. They have made the Bible square with their own views, and as their views were ours till lately, we have followed in their wake, and done the same; and the consequence is that we make the sun and moon begin to serve for days and years only on the fourth day, when the original Bible changes the tense here to assure us that all this had been so before; and on the whole of this subject the Septuagint is full of mistakes, and has served only to lead us wrong; but on the places the Bible speaks of in Lower Egypt the Septuagint could scarcely be wrong. There seems to be no doubt whatever but that this Greek version of the Bible was made at Alexandria, in Lower Egypt, and that it was in general use there among the Jews some three hundred years before the birth of Christ. And if they ventured to add to the words of Scripture that Goshen meant the Goshen of Arabia, and the place Judah was sent on to was the land of Rameses by Heropolis, this must have been a tradition of the country in those days, which did not admit of a doubt amongst them. We know how scrupulous the Jews were about their Scriptures; and had there been any difference of opinion amongst them on these points, here in Lower Egypt, they never would have allowed these words to stand; and though we must distrust the Seventy, where they were likely to be misled by their own views, as in the first chapter of Genesis, yet here on the places that Moses speaks of, in the country where they were living and had the best possible means of knowing what everybody said, we can hardly let Robinson or any one else set them aside. It is in the province of Arabia where the Septuagint assures us that Joseph first wished to settle his brethren—east of the Delta—east even of Heropolis; but though this might be the first plan of Joseph, the favour of Pharaoh did certainly make some little difference in his intention; for he gave them a possession in the best of the land; and though this was not in the land of Goshen, but in the land of Rameses, it still gave them an opening into the land of Egypt; and had they felt any wish whatever to settle well among the Egyptians, they might have used their favour to push in still further; but to get further into Egypt and be more mixed up with the Egyptians is the very thing the children of Israel show from the first that they are most anxious not to do. They are fully aware that every shepherd was an abomination to the Egyptians, yet in their interview with Pharaoh the first thing they had agreed to tell him is, that they were shepherds, and always had been shepherds, expressly because shepherds were so disliked there, in order that they might be left to dwell in Goshen. They assure Pharaoh that it was to sojourn only that they were come; to dwell there, it is true, but only "now," while there was no food elsewhere for themselves or for their cattle. They who say such things have clearly a dread rather of getting more into Egypt, and Pharaoh shows he understood this when he charges Joseph to give them possession in the best of the land, and yet he allows them to dwell in Goshen. Israel had no wish to press into Egypt while Joseph lived, and when another king arose which knew not Joseph they would not have the choice. The result is, that in the days of Moses when the men of Israel are all draughted off to work at Rameses, the country where they are still said to dwell and have their flocks and herds, is not at Rameses, but in the land of Goshen. But the Bible and the oldest traditions of the country are all so clear in placing the land of Goshen out in the border country, east of the Delta, that we must face the fact; and as all who have ever gone over the country, or only asked about it at Cairo, like Robinson, must side with him in allowing that this land is now a desert and quite uninhabitable, it would be a great satisfaction to have the whole of this country surveyed by a competent, trustworthy hand, so as to give us a clearer insight into the changes of level that have been going on there, and the amount of land there that must have been within reach of the waters of the Nile in the days of Moses.

From the letters in the *Athenaeum* of 1851, it

seems that the question has been already mooted, whether this side of Egypt must not have been all raised to a higher level during the present state of things, owing to what was observed by Stephenson as long ago as the year 1800, in two, or rather three, raised beaches on the great basin of the bitter lakes; as Mr. Stephenson had ascertained that the shells of all those raised beaches, as well as those strewed over the plain of the great basin, were all of them, without exception, of precisely the same species as those now inhabiting the Gulf of Suez. But this is no more than we had ventured to assert of the shells we found on one of the outlying mounds at Pihahiroth, some fifteen or sixteen miles south of the most southern of Stephenson's sea beaches. And the inference that the sea must have risen there is equally certain, whether we suppose these shells to have lived there under water, or, as your correspondent A. B. G. suggests, to have been blown up there by a high wind. They may have been blown there, as they were small, and there was no sign of anything like sea sand about them in the crannies of the rocks at the top of the mound where they were lying; but if they were blown there, they are still modern sea shells, and they must have been blown out of the Red Sea when the sea was not eight miles off, as it is now; and for the sea to come nearer, the land must have been lower. The same rise in the land is traced still further, in the *Athenæum* of June 28, 1851, by the present level of the solid ground at the bottom of the canal leading from Stephenson's sea beaches down to the sea, as this canal must have been navigable when it was dug, and yet the ground is now too high for any tide to rise over it deep enough to float a galley there. There is also a very ingenious attempt in the *Athenæum* of June 28, 1851, to find the rate at which the land has risen, and so to make out the depth of the channel at Pihahiroth, in the days of Moses, on the assumption that the land has always been rising at about the same rate; but what we had seen at Rameses of the double change of level there makes us contented to find this attempt, in the next number, given up; but at Rameses, on the line of the Freshwater Canal, some twelve miles to the west of the most northern of the sea beaches seen by Stephenson near Cheik Ennedek on the Lake Temsah, there must have been a double movement, first to sink this town below the sea, so as to leave it covered up with sea sand, and with modern sea shells over it; and then to raise it again above the level of the sea, and so much above it as to leave the whole country out of reach of the waters of the Nile and quite uninhabitable. With the confirmation given to these views by Stephenson, we need now have no hesitation in insisting on them. But what we still need to bring back to us the state of things in the days of Moses, is a more thorough insight into the nature and extent of these changes from the Delta eastward to the Lake Temsah, and to the north and south of the Freshwater Canal. Every modern change here must have left its mark. And in Egypt, above all other countries in the world, the level of the country at any place is the single point on which all depends whether the country is habitable or not.

A SUFFOLK INCUMBENT.

AN OLD NORTH-GERMAN CITY.

Hanover, Sept. 1865.

The fancy for lingering in antique by-way towns, apart from a desire to carry out any strict or separate pursuit, grows, as does every other indulgence of "collection." Thanks to the magic of modern intercourse, there is hardly now a journey by railway flight across France or Germany, which does not afford the traveller the opportunity of breaking his journey, and transporting himself back to the times of old, on easy terms. Thus, the splendid Cathedral of Laon is to-day within practicable reach of Paris; thus, the dreamer or artist, travelling from Berlin to Cologne, who halts at Hanover,—supposing him already familiar with that picturesque place, Hildesheim,—may turn aside, and within some two hours (when the branch railroad—now all but complete—shall be opened) indulge his fancy for adding to his stock of details under the gigantic, burly, round gate-towers, and

in the battered streets and open spaces, and on the pleasant rampart-walks of an historical site, the grandeur of which knoweth it no more—the ancient city of Goslar.

It has been, affectedly, the fashion to call this Goslar the Nuremberg of the North, as it has been to style Nuremberg the Venice of Germany. Few such titles (that of our own "Modern Athens" not forgotten) will abide scrutiny. The rags of imperial magnificence (so to say), which give a physiognomy to the old North-German town, will not stand an instant's comparison with the burgher-splendours of Nuremberg, antique and faded, but still intact, and showing no sign of rack or ruin. There is nothing in Goslar to be named in comparison with the Catharinen Strasse, with the three great churches and their works of Art, with the fountains and the St. John's churchyard (with its august tomb-bronzes), of the Bavarian town. War and revolution, the change of empires and the fall of kings, have told their tale on a city, which, to judge from what is left, may, in its palmy days, have been no less pompously decorated than Nuremberg by all that Pride and Art and Religion could do. As a storehouse of architectural fragments, however, it would be hard to name a place better worth ransacking than Goslar. Some of these, which may be seen at a bird's-eye view, are of first-class beauty and value;—as, for instance, the solemn ante-chapel (all that remains of the Cathedral, once the scene of so many stately ceremonials) with its four niched statues above the portal. There is not one of the streets diverging from the place in which stand the Town Hall and Kaiserworth (now furbished up to do duty as an inn), in which some old house will not be found in worse preservation than the kindred mansions of Hildesheim, but it may have been originally richer in those vagaries of that fancy in which the Gothic architects, half superstitiously, half sarcastically, loved to riot. Here they wrought on the verge of the Harz district mountain land, haunted by Ghome and Kobold; and thus, among the pendants and capitals, and the carved borders which divide the stories of the houses, besides the usual assortment of monkish and animal grotesques, might be found, I suspect, a mine of those whimsies which have been produced *ad nauseam* by second-hand modern German designers, to deck a Rhine bill-of-fare, or to dress up the front of a Bohemian glass-shop. I do not recollect, within so short a time, to have noted anywhere else so many varieties of niche, window and portal, and fantastic iron and brass work, as in Goslar. An antiquarian draughtsman would find there subjects for weeks.

Battered as the Town Hall has been (to repeat my epithet), its principal chamber retains some air of its old state and glory. There is the chair in which Emperors have sat,—there are the crumpling banners which waved over them on their coronation days. There are the panelled walls, divided by what may be called a sort of cloister-work of arch and flat tracery in wood, and, like the panelled roof, decorated with historical portrait-figures, the size of life, ascribed to Albrecht Dürer's master, Wohlgemuth; in any event, fine specimens of ancient Art reasonably well preserved, without, so far as I could perceive, having been retouched. And there are some fine old MSS., one among the number a Papal Bull; another as excruciatingly exquisite a specimen of calligraphy as was ever seen. Then the Town Hall still contains, besides a clumsy glaive and shield or two, wholesome implements of justice and torture; in particular, a double closet for the reduction of refractory market-women, from which any conjuror desiring to improve on Davenport cabinet-making for the use of riotous spirits might pick up a hint or two. Further, among a few church utensils and *cimelia*, is a festival cup, probably not surpassed in any European collection, certainly not by any in the Green Vaults at Dresden, nor by that specimen in the Merkel collection at Nuremberg, whose owner (no wonder!) keeps it so religiously under lock and key. The authorities of Goslar should look better after their treasure than they do. This tall and ample cup, most graceful in shape, is of wrought silver, gilt with zones of florid and minute fancies and figures in gold. One of these represents a choir of mountain musicians, exquisitely wrought, and

playing on pipe, organ, violin, bagpipe, *tromba marina* (I forget the German name for this lost instrument), harp, drum, &c. This relic would, of itself, repay any one curious in the goldsmith's craft for a pilgrimage to Goslar.

The ancient city has modern pilgrims of another sort. Wherever King, Priest and Lady resorted in old times, the Seer and the Leech were as indispensable figures in their train as was the Fool of Goslar, though it has no more emperors or archbishops, keeps up the tradition, even to this day; since the town is the head-quarters of an illiterate, self-taught herb-doctor, to whom crowned heads repair, and whose exactions and gains are said to exceed even those of a Koreff or a Davres (that Batavian charlatan who passed like a meteor through Paris some seven years ago). Some of the prescriptions of this Goslar Galen, though openly talked of, are too astoundingly coarse to be discussed in print. Meanwhile, his vogue is enormous.

Those in health, who need no outlet for morbid credulity, may, in preference, care to hear that the Ocker Valley, which opens about an English mile out of Goslar, is a fine gorge of precipitous rocks and old fir-woods, with a mountain stream hurrying down to swell the Weser. At its entrance into the plain there are mineral works worth attention; one an ultramarine mill; further down, a manufactory, which will be newer to many. From this, a famous succedaneum for rags is furnished to the paper-maker by the forests of the Harz. Selected blocks of the white pine tree—the clearer of knots the better—are barked, and ground into powder, and macerated into paste by the aid of water-power; and this having been compressed, is despatched to paper-makers, whose purposes the material serves admirably, even to the production of the finest foreign post-paper. This Ocker mill is a thriving concern. The secret of its prosperity may belong, in part, to its proprietor—one of those stout, intelligent citizens, homely and cordial, without any coarseness, who are a benefit to all and everything that they take in hand. In such direct, genuine men, and such families as are fortunately round the one I speak of, lie the strength and hope of Germany,—and not among those misplaced and loquacious folk, spoiled by a smattering of "ideas," and ventilating any nonsense, no matter what, so that it gives them an opportunity of hearing their own tongues,—whose long-winded verbiage and want of distinct sense of duty are so depressing and barren of instruction to the passing stranger.

C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE coming literary season has begun to cast its brightness on our columns. The promise of good books, and many of them, increases from day to day, and a reader may already guess at much of his intellectual entertainment during the winter nights. At the same time, we are glad to state that the book-trade is said to be in a thoroughly sound and prosperous state. Messrs. Chapman & Hall will open with Mr. Dallas's "Gay Science,"—the third and fourth volumes of Mr. Trollope's "Florence,"—Mr. Louis Figuer's "World before the Flood,"—and a revised edition of Mr. Dixon's "Holy Land." Messrs. Hurst & Blackett are preparing for the press, "The Memoirs and Correspondence of Field-Marshal Viscount Combermere,"—the second volume of Miss Meteyard's "Life of Josiah Wedgwood,"—"From Cadet to Colonel: being the Record of a Life of Active Service," by Major-Gen. Sir Thomas Seaton,—the third and fourth volumes of the Hon. Grantley Berkeley's "Life and Recollections,"—"Sport and Sportsmen," by Charles Stretton, Esq.,—and "Social Life in Florence," by Count Arrivabene. Messrs. Smith & Elder are preparing for the season, "Life and Letters of the late Rev. Frederick W. Robertson,"—"A Century of Painters of the English School: with Critical Notices of their Works, and an Account of the Progress of Art in England," by Richard Redgrave, R.A., and Samuel Redgrave,—"The Book of Were-Wolves," by Sabine Baring-Gould,—a new volume of "Reminiscences," by Capt. Gronow,—"Three Years among the Working Classes in the United States, during the War," by the author of "Autobiography of a Beggar Boy,"

Irish Capt. L. Sons and Ill. Introduc. under J. Architect the Earth. Remains. Alexander. Messrs. Homo! Christ, being a. Stuart volume and D. Nicene Position. cett,— credulity, may, in preference, care to hear that the Ocker Valley, which opens about an English mile out of Goslar, is a fine gorge of precipitous rocks and old fir-woods, with a mountain stream hurrying down to swell the Weser. At its entrance into the plain there are mineral works worth attention; one an ultramarine mill; further down, a manufactory, which will be newer to many. From this, a famous succedaneum for rags is furnished to the paper-maker by the forests of the Harz. Selected blocks of the white pine tree—the clearer of knots the better—are barked, and ground into powder, and macerated into paste by the aid of water-power; and this having been compressed, is despatched to paper-makers, whose purposes the material serves admirably, even to the production of the finest foreign post-paper. This Ocker mill is a thriving concern. The secret of its prosperity may belong, in part, to its proprietor—one of those stout, intelligent citizens, homely and cordial, without any coarseness, who are a benefit to all and everything that they take in hand. In such direct, genuine men, and such families as are fortunately round the one I speak of, lie the strength and hope of Germany,—and not among those misplaced and loquacious folk, spoiled by a smattering of "ideas," and ventilating any nonsense, no matter what, so that it gives them an opportunity of hearing their own tongues,—whose long-winded verbiage and want of distinct sense of duty are so depressing and barren of instruction to the passing stranger.

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— 'Irish Coast Tales of Love and Adventure,' by Capt. L. Esmonde White. Messrs. Blackwood & Sons announce 'The Operations of War Explained and Illustrated,' by Col. E. B. Hamley, — 'An Introductory Text-Book of Meteorology,' by Alexander Buchan, — 'Villa Residences and Farm Architecture,' by John Starforth, — 'Lectures on the Early Greek Philosophy and other Philosophical Remains of the late J. F. Ferrier, edited by Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., and E. L. Lushington. Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will publish "Ecce Homo!" a Survey of the Life and Work of Jesus Christ, — 'A Defence of Fundamental Truth; being a Review of the Philosophy of Mr. John Stuart Mill,' by James M'Cosh, — the second volume of 'A Critical History of Christian Literature and Doctrine from the Death of the Apostles to the Nicene Council,' by J. Donaldson, — 'The Economic Position of the British Labourer,' by Henry Fawcett, — 'Popular Astronomy: a Series of Lectures delivered at Ipswich,' by G. B. Airy, Astronomer Royal, — 'Popular Epics of the Middle Ages, of the Norse-German and Carolean Cycles,' by John Malcolm Ludlow, — 'The Prince's Progress, and other Poems,' by Christina G. Rossetti. Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. are preparing 'Turkey,' by J. Lewis Farley, — 'The Conspiracy of Count Fieschi: an Episode in Italian History,' by M. de Cesia, translated by David Hilton, — 'A Walk from London to the Land's End, with Notes by the Way,' by Elihu Burritt, — 'Letters on England,' by Louis Blanc, — 'A Biography of Admiral Sir B. P. V. Brook, Bart.,' by the Rev. John G. Brighton, — 'House and Home in Belgium,' by Blanchard Jerrold. Messrs. Trübner & Co. will publish 'Auguste Comte and Positivism,' by Mr. John Stuart Mill, M.P., — also a New Translation of the Old Testament, the Twenty-four Books of the Holy Scriptures, translated according to the Masoretic Text, after the best Jewish Authorities, by Isaac Leeser. Some of the chief houses are still unnamed, and we shall continue these notes another day.

In consequence of Mr. Purkiss's death, Lord Granville has appointed Mr. Merrifield to resume the office of Principal of the School of Naval Architecture for the next session, which commences on the 1st of November.

The removal of the miscellaneous portraits from one of the long galleries of Hampton Court Palace to the Cartoon Gallery has disclosed a fine series of decorative tapestries on the walls, which are of the latter part of the seventeenth century, and are well fitted to the room. It is to be hoped that Mr. Cowper will allow them to remain, being part of the original decorations of the building.

On the 28th of September, Miss Garrett passed her final examination at Apothecaries' Hall, and received a licence to practise medicine. The Apothecaries' course includes five years' apprenticeship, a preliminary examination in Arts, and two professional examinations. Certificates of attendance at lectures on each of the subjects of examination are required, which certificates can only be given by regular lecturers in recognized medical schools. Certificates of hospital practice and clinical instruction are also required. All these conditions were complied with by Miss Garrett. Her course was perfectly regular, missing nothing.

Another lady, Miss Colborne, has passed the preliminary examination in Arts, intending also to enter the medical profession. The Apothecaries' licence constitutes the legal qualification of what are called "general practitioners."

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. are about to adventure on a new monthly magazine, under the title of "The Argosy," the first number of which will appear on December 1st, and will contain the first instalment of a new tale by Mr. Charles Reade. The price is to be 6d. Each number, we are told, will contain a hundred pages of letter-press, and will be illustrated.

Messrs. Moxon & Co. have published in their "Ministre" series, a selection from the poems of Mr. Robert Browning; the volume is prettily got up, and is embellished with an engraved head of the poet.

A mere glance at the new edition of 'Men of

the Time' shows that it is greatly improved; more facts and fewer opinions being given in the various lives. The omissions are not remarkable. On the whole a useful labour appears to have been accomplished with good sense and good taste.

We are asked to insert these "last words" on a controversy which has now been carried as far as the public will care for it: —

"Kensington, Oct. 2, 1865.

"In your last issue you give insertion to a statement of my publishers, of which I should decline to take any notice if it did not leave me convicted of a rather serious misrepresentation. The fact is that I can show, on the clearest proof, — letter of the printer's *penes me*, — that I never saw revises of the greater part of the novel, as Mr. Maxwell did not consider it necessary, I was apprised; and the first and last opportunity I enjoyed for correction, so far, certainly, as a moiety of the publication is concerned, was the *first proof*. Mr. Maxwell's corrector did not interfere with the book except in half-a-dozen places, and in all those he altered, as I have been obliged to point out, for the worse, and after a certain point, I believe that no supervision was exercised at all. What Mr. Maxwell means by 'first proofs' and so on I have not the slightest notion. Independently of the corruptions of the text by an *employé* of Mr. Maxwell's, the book is very carelessly worked off, and full of the most atrocious misprints, partly in consequence of my not having seen revised of a considerable portion, and partly by reason of the careless working. These differences between author and publisher are always disagreeable, and I should never have raised the present discussion had it not been for the very aggravated circumstances, and because it seemed necessary to do so for my own protection. I find that I misquoted myself in my letter of the 18th of September, by saying, 'the sound of bells in the *first* sleep of the morning,' instead of 'the sound of bells in the *last* sleep, &c., as it stands in the book.'

W. CAREW HAZLITT."

Lord Brougham opened the Social Science Congress on Wednesday with a review of our social condition and a glance at foreign politics. A large audience assembled to hear "the old man eloquent," and it is no disparagement of his matter to say that far deeper interest was felt in the speaker than in his speech. The Sections commenced their work on Thursday.

A Church Congress has been held during the week at Norwich, where the relations of cathedrals to popular art — music, decoration and architecture — have been under consideration at the instance of Mr. Beresford Hope. We hail with gladness every movement tending to make these glorious edifices the centres of popular life.

Mr. Tennyson has given a sitting to Messrs. Elliott & Fry, photographers, who have produced a very good likeness of the poet, which is at the same time a fine picture.

"Your story of 'for our goods,'" says a Correspondent, "reminds me that George the First when he landed in England said to some of the crowd assembled, 'I come for your goods,' (meaning for your *welfare*), and that one of the crowd replied (alluding to the good things the Germans would pick up), 'Aye, and chattels too, I expect.'"

Such is the appreciation of chemical science in Germany that at the present time two large chemical laboratories on the most complete scale are in course of being erected, at Berlin and Bonn, at the expense of the State. They will cost, it is said, above seventy-five thousand pounds.

On the 14th of September, the dying day of Dante, a number of Dante's friends met at Dresden, and constituted themselves a literary society, of which King Johann, himself a translator of the *Divina Commedia*, took the protectorate. The society has resolved to publish in future an Annual on Dante Literature in the widest sense, and to meet at least every two years at Dresden. Prof. Witte, of Halle, was chosen President, Profs. Wegele, of Würzburg, and Petzold, of Dresden, assistants. In the public meeting on the evening after the constitution of the society, at which the King was present, lectures on interesting

subjects, referring to the poet, were delivered by HH. Witte and Wegele; Prof. Lieber, of Berlin, performed Dante's 'The Lord's Prayer,' and the celebrated 'Sonnet to Beatrice,' ending with the word "sospira," with excellent accompaniment on the piano. Dr. Notter, and Fräulein von Hoffinger, of Vienna, recited parts of new translations of the *Divina Commedia*, and fragments of a new drama by Hahn (Herr von Münch-Bellinghausen), with Francesca da Rimini's sad history for a subject. At last, Professor Cavaliere Giulini, of Florence, one of the first Dante scholars of his country, who had come to Dresden expressly for the occasion, gave a lively address in Italian on the poet, and the hopes and expectations which his nation united with the name of that powerful spirit.

The festivity of uncovering the Uhland monument took place at Stuttgart, on the 21st ult., accompanied by the usual solemnities. The large grounds of the Liederkrantz Garden were filled with a multitude which felt disposed to do honour to its favourite poet, a disposition which was heightened still more when the sounds of Kreutzer's beautiful composition of 'Schäfer's Sonntagslied' opened the choral performances of the Liederkrantz. When the last notes of the song had died away, the covering fell at once, and the noble head of the poet, with its severe yet mild expression, looked down on the assembled crowd, among which there was not a man who required an admonition to take off his hat. J. G. Fischer delivered an address, in which he gave a short, but faithful and lifelike, picture of the poet, the patriot, and the man. This address was followed by a poem, spoken by Rath Maier, of Tübingen, one of the oldest friends of Uhland. Vocal performances, mostly Kreutzer's composition of Uhland's poems and Arndt's National Hymn, concluded the festival.

A fine statue of the Emperor Trajan is said to have been found while excavating near the Villa Lavinia, in Rome.

M. de Lamartine has just commenced the publication in the *Constitutionnel* of a Life of Byron. Such an event will seem out of date to Englishmen; but, next after Shakspeare, Byron is in France the English poet *par excellence*, and his name and quotations from his works are of everyday occurrence. With respect to quotations, we are sorry to see that M. de Lamartine follows the custom of his countrymen, in translating into plain prose. Certainly prose renderings are better than bad paraphrases in verse; but surely the most celebrated romantic poet of France could have given his countrymen a better idea of Byron's genius in poetic measure.

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, Cornhill, on the 21st ult. — *Portrait of J. Lewis*, R.A.; *Hook*, R.A.; *Philip*, R.A.; *Frith*, R.A.; *Roberts*, R.A.; *Poole*, R.A.; *Goodall*, R.A.; *Cooke*, R.A.; *Cope*, R.A.; *Creswick*, R.A.; *Pickersgill*, R.A.; *Leighton*, R.A.; *Calderon*, R.A.; *Sant*, R.A.; *Winstoll*, R.A.; *Reynolds*, R.A.; *P. A. R. —* *W. H. Hunt*, R.A.; *J. M. W. Turner*, R.A.; *Cooper*, R.A.; *Gale*; *Gallant*; *Frère*; *Duverger*; *Auguste Bonheur*; *Marks*; *Pettie*; *F. Hardy*, &c. — Admission on presentation of address card.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Entire change of Lectures and Entertainments, commencing October 9. — Professor Pepper on the Gorgous Phenomena of Polarized Light — New Serio-Comic Ghost Story (J. H. Pepper and Henry Dircks joint inventors), entitled "The Poor Author Tested — New Scene, with the Wandering Library, can. — Professor Pepper on the Hero, the Devil, &c. — Musical Entertainment, by Mr. F. Chatterton, the celebrated Cellist, assisted by Miss Haldane, entitled "The Adventures of an Artist in Search of Fame" — Course of Lectures, by Dr. Donavan, on Phrenology — Lecture, by J. L. King, Esq., on Thermal Battery Power. — Admission to the whole, 1s.

SCIENCE

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

SECTION A.—MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

TUESDAY.

'On a New Method in Geometry,' by Prof. PLÜCKER.

'On the Great Storm of December, 1864, on the Coast of the Peninsula,' by Mr. J. B. CAPELLO. — The paper described the results of observations made by Signor Capello for the purpose of discovering whether the storm was of a cycloidal character.

'On Charles' Method of Characteristics,' by Prof.

T. H. HIRST.—After briefly explaining the nature and scope of this important method, by which the theory of conic sections has now been completed, Prof. Hirst communicated a few of the results of Prof. Charles' most recent researches on the properties of conics, in space, which satisfy one less than the number (eight) of conditions necessary to determine them. These results were published but a week ago in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Academy of Sciences.

'On a Special Class of Questions in the Theory of Probability,' by Prof. SYLVESTER.—The celebrated question of probability proposed and solved by the great Buffon constitutes, it is believed, one of the earliest, if not the first example of a question of Local Probability. It was to find the chance of a stick dropped vertically over a longitudinal grating falling through or hitting one of the bars. Within this theory is contained another, to which the author proposes to affix the provisional name of form-probability. To this interior theory belongs such questions as these: To find the chance that three points taken arbitrarily within a sphere will mark out the angles of an acute or obtuse angled triangle; that four points within a circle will indicate a re-entrant or a convex quadrilateral; or again that four points on a right line will constitute an ultra-harmonic or infra-harmonic group. Any area bounded by a plane may be regarded as the base of a conical hill, by contouring whose horizontal sections in the manner familiar to all in Ordnance maps the base becomes dissected into an indefinite number of similar annuli, variable at will by shifting the position of the vertex of the cone. By aid of this elementary geometrical conception, combined with other principles equally self-evident, the author arrives at certain perfectly general theorems for transforming the data of all questions coming under the category of form-probability, whereby their treatment becomes greatly simplified and the order of summations expressing the numerator of the probability involved sinks two degrees. Thus, for instance, any form-probability question involving a group of three points, moving freely over a circle, may be converted into the much easier one, where a single point only ranges over the interior, the other two moving on the periphery of the circle with a probability varying as the square of their distance from one another. So, again, when the range is a triangle, any one point in the group may be kept penned to a single side, it matters not which, the chance will come out the same whichever side is chosen and will be identical with the chance in the original question. Similar theorems apply to groups of any number of points, and alike for ranges confined to portions of a right line or a plane or solid space with any sort of contours. As these questions were originally proposed, no contours were assigned to the ranges, and in this state of the subject contradictory results were obtained, arising, in the author's opinion, from a tacit error in assuming the existence of determinate solution in questions essentially indeterminate. The problem of finding the mean area of a triangle in a circle, or the mean volume of a tetrahedron in a sphere, may easily be converted into problems of form-probability, and thus become amenable to the author's method of treatment. Attacked by the ordinary methods in use, they (especially the latter) present formidable difficulties of solution, arising from the analytical representations of an area or volume being liable to repeated changes of sign. This is a sort of *polarity* which must be got rid of, and the subject-matter, so to say, reduced to the condition of ordinary arithmetical quantity with irreversible sign before the integrations can be performed so as to lead to a correct result. These difficulties are completely got over by aid of the author's general theorems of transformation.

'On Prof. Price's Modification of Arbogast's Method,' by Prof. SYLVESTER.

'On Certain Theorems in Laplace's Discussion of the Figure of the Earth and Precession and Nutation,' by Prof. A. H. CURTIS.

'On the Self-Registering Barometer at the Liverpool Observatory,' by Mr. J. HARTNUP.—The increased attention given of late to meteorological observations has naturally created a demand for instruments, which, by their own action, shall pro-

duce a permanent record of the various phenomena of our atmosphere. Photography requires considerable skill in the manipulation, and a more direct and simple mode of self-registration is therefore in some cases a desideratum. The instrument described in this paper is a floating barometer, constructed by Mr. King, since the exhibition of the first trial instrument at a former Meeting of the British Association in 1854. In the ordinary barometer the variations in the atmospheric pressure are indicated by the varying height of a column of mercury within a tube; in this floating barometer they are made evident by the movements of the tube itself, which is counterpoised by a weight, say at 29 inches. If by the increase in atmospheric pressure the length of the column of mercury in it is increased to 30 inches, it is evident the equilibrium will be destroyed, and the weight of the additional inch of mercury will cause the tube to descend until its closed end comes into contact with the mercury. If, on the other hand, the pressure is reduced to 28 inches, one inch of mercury in the column will be lost, and the tube will rise. The indications of the instrument being dependent on the motion of the suspended tube, by the contrivance of an annular float of reduced dimensions surrounding its immersed end, the displacement of a corresponding bulk of mercury in the cistern to the gain or loss in the tube is exaggerated, and a greater range of index obtained.

'On the Anomalies of our Climate,' by Mr. T. L. PLANT.—In this paper the author pointed out the extremes which had come under his observation in Birmingham during twenty-nine years, i.e. from 1836 to 1864.

'On the Meteorology of Birmingham,' by Mr. D. SMITH.—The results given in this paper were deduced from observations extending over a period of twelve years, namely, from 1853 to 1864 inclusive, and as far as could be the records thus obtained were compared with the results of the medical inspections of the borough. The excellent weekly returns of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths, and the meteorological returns of eleven large towns, by Mr. Glaisher, which accompany it, reveal facts of the highest interest, affording as they do a comparison of death-rates with temperature. But the author considered there was yet required in every large town, especially in Birmingham itself, the population of which is increasing at the rate of about 5,000 yearly, a distinct record of the new cases of disease, the nature of the localities in which they have occurred, and the conditions of atmosphere under which they have been formed. The principal local results obtained are: Mean atmospheric pressure (reduced to sea-level), 29.958 inches; mean temperature, 47°.6; the highest temperature, 89°.2; the lowest, -2°.5; mean yearly rainfall, 29.991 inches; greatest fall, 35.16; least, 21.21; mean number of days on which rain fell, 176.

'On the Hydrometer and its Adaptation to the Present Requirements of the Board of Inland Revenue,' by Mr. L. OERTLING.—In this paper the means adopted for levying the duty upon spirits in the Revenue departments was considered, and attention called to the shortcomings of the present method. The instrument now used is Sikes' hydrometer, accompanied by Sikes' tables. It was distinctly pointed out that the instrument and the tables had been constructed upon different formulae and were not in harmony, and that, further, there were defects in the actual form of that hydrometer, causing considerable amounts of error in the estimation of the strength of the spirits tested by it.

'On the Topograph, a New Surveying Instrument,' by Capt. LENNY.—This ingenious instrument will enable any one readily to survey a road, sketch a country, find the height of buildings or mountains, and to represent with accuracy the features of the ground of any district. It may be used as a prismatic compass, as a level, or a clinometer, as a plane table with its sight ruler alone, and as a plane table or compass combined to facilitate the finding of stations. Its manipulation is of the simplest kind, and there is no need of scales, measuring-compasses, or protractor; the machine itself protracting the angles and laying down the distances to scale. Its weight is under a pound avoirdupois.

'On an Instrument by which any Rainbow that

is possible to appear within the Area of any Picture may be indicated in its right Place and of the true Size,' by Mr. C. VARLEY.

SECTION B.—CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

TUESDAY.

'On the New Formule, with Reference to Schools and Examinations,' by Mr. T. WOOD.

'On Crystallized Melaconite and Tenorite,' by Prof. MASKELYNE.

Mr. W. WHITE exhibited Photographs of the Interior of the Great Pyramid taken with the Magnesium Light by Prof. C. Piazzi Smyth.—One of the first feats with magnesium was taking portraits at night. This done, it was suggested, Why may we not have photographs of caves, catacombs, crypts, mines, and of every dark and wonderful cavity? This suggestion was put to the test by the Scottish Astronomer Royal. Probably all have heard something of the interesting controversy connected with the granite coffer—the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Great Pyramid. It was Prof. Piazzi Smyth's great object to bring this mysterious coffer to light, and to dissipate for ever all uncertainty about it. This, with the aid of magnesium, he has accomplished. We shall shortly have a volume from his pen descriptive of his researches and conclusions, and illustrated with photographs. Meanwhile, he has allowed copies of his photographs to be exhibited to the Association. One example represented the granite coffer in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid. According to the theory of the late Mr. Taylor, that coffer was a primeval measure of capacity, whence is derived the hereditary Anglo-Saxon wheat measure called the quarter, of which coffer it is the fourth part. Whilst, however, we know by Act of Parliament how many cubic inches are contained in four quarters English, there has been much doubt as to the cubical contents of the granite chest of the Pyramid. The measures of the French Academy in 1799 made it nearly 6,300 cubic inches greater than several English travellers had declared it to be, though they again by no means agreed with each other in subsidiary details. Now, however, by means of the magnesium light, we have a series of photographs of this coffer, with a system of measuring-rods fastened about it, showing the size inside and the size outside; and, finally, the cubical contents being summed up, proved that the remarkable granite vessel is a measure of capacity equal, with almost mathematical accuracy, to four quarters English.

'On the Aniline Process in Photography,' by Mr. W. WILLIS.

'On the Formation of Ammonia from Nitrogen in the Atmosphere,' by Mr. W. L. SCOTT.

'On the Properties and Functions of Ammonia or its Homologues in the Blood,' by Mr. W. L. SCOTT.

'On the Preservation of the Sheathing of Ships, and Extraction of Silver from Sea Water, by means of Electricity,' by Mr. J. C. BOWRING.

'On the Direction of the Electric Current,' by Mr. J. C. BOWRING.

'On the Sanitary and Economical Aspects of the Sewage Question,' by Mr. A. HILL.

'Observations on the Utilization of Sewage, as conducted at Stroud, and on the Growth of the Sewage Plant,' by Mr. H. BIRD.

SECTION D.—ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY.

TUESDAY.

'On the Relative Weight of the Brain in relation to the Intelligence, in the Vertebrata,' by Dr. CRISP.

Mr. W. R. HUGHES exhibited specimens of *Lepidogaster bimaculatus* and *L. cornuviensis*.

'On the Birth of a Young Hippopotamus in the Zoological Society's Gardens, Amsterdam,' by Dr. SCLATER.—There were only three pairs of these animals in Europe. One pair was in London, the male of which was received in 1850, and the female about four years subsequently, being the first pair brought to Europe. The second pair was now in the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris; and in that case young had been twice lost. The third pair was acquired about three years ago, for the Zoological Gardens at Amsterdam; and it was to

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those that his paper, based on communications from Dr. Westermann, had relation. The female had produced young four times. Both the first and second time the young were left alone with the mother; but she injured and destroyed them. The third was removed soon after the birth, but did not succeed. On the 29th of July last the female again gave birth, and the young one was taken away before the mother could rise to defend it. It was placed in a large basket, and taken to a long cage, having in it a tank of water, and beneath it hot water pipes to heat the room and give the required temperature. The animal is fed upon milk with about one-fifth of water. It is increasing in size, and is sometimes very playful, following the keepers about like a dog; and so far it was considered that very much success had been met with in bringing up the animal. The period of gestation in this case was eight months—a remarkably short period for an animal of such large size.

'Report of the Committee appointed to Explore the Marine Flora and Fauna of the Southern Coasts of Devon and Cornwall,' by Mr. C. S. BATE.

Dr. JORDAN exhibited an abnormal growth of a bud of a birch-tree.

'Remarks on some improved Methods of displaying Birds in Public Museums, illustrated by Specimens from the Derby Museum, Liverpool,' by Mr. T. J. MOORE.

'On the Metamorphoses of Ephemera (Chloeon),' by Sir J. LUBBOCK, Bart.

Mr. H. WOODWARD exhibited a chart of recent and fossil Crustaceans.

Dr. CLEGHORN read a paper 'On the Deodar Forests of the Western Himalaya,' which he explored in 1862 and 1863, with a view of obtaining correct information respecting the timber resources available for the Punjab Railway. He exhibited a sketch-map showing approximately the position and extent of the deodar tracts, so far as ascertained, between the Jumna and Indus rivers. He dwelt on the applicability of the wood of the *Cedrus deodara* for railway purposes, for which it has been found very valuable. An officer is now employed upon each of the great rivers of the Punjab for carrying out, upon sound principles, the conservancy and management of these important forests. The quantity of deodar timber brought down the Chenab alone in one year has amounted to 12,000 tons, and an increase of timber upon the Indus and Kabul rivers was predicted. The characteristic vegetation of the Deodar Forests was shown in a series of photographs taken by Lieut.-Col. C. Hutchinson, R.E.

The Rev. H. B. TRISTRAM dwelt upon the efforts of the French Government in raising the *Cedrus Atlantica* for public purposes in Algeria; and a discussion followed as to the identity of *Cedrus deodara*, *Libani*, and *Atlantica*, in which Dr. THOMSON and Col. MUNRO took part.

'On the Scope of Zoological Inquiries,' by Dr. MÖRCK.

'Phrenology, or the Physiology of the Brain, the most important Department of Ethnology,' by Dr. PRIDEAUX.—Nineteen years ago, when the author attempted to introduce Phrenology at one of the meetings of the Association, he was told the subject was prohibited. Phrenology being emphatically a science founded on observation, and the means of making these observations lying so abundantly around, how was it the science was allowed to occupy for so long a period a debatable ground in public opinion? We had plenty of naturalists and cultivators of the physical sciences, and were not without a supply of metaphysicians. The phrenologist required to unite the capacities and tastes of both parties; and the fact that individuals who combine the two sets of mental qualifications will be smaller in number than those endowed with one only, furnished one reason why phrenologists were less numerous than physicists and metaphysicians.

The paper gave rise to an animated debate, in which Profs. BENNETT and TATE and Dr. HUMPHRY opposed Phrenology, and Prof. MACDONALD supported it.

SUB-SECTION D.—PHYSIOLOGY.

TUESDAY.

'Observations on a Female Skeleton, aged 104,' by Dr. G. M. HUMPHRY.

'On the Early Development of Organs in Embryonic Life,' by Mr. S. H. PARKES.

'Physiological Experiments with Ozone,' by Dr. B. W. RICHARDSON.

'Functions of the Cerebellum,' by Dr. W. DICKENSON.

'A few Remarks on the Causes of the Cattle Murrain,' by Dr. SHETTLE.—The author considered pulmonary and steppe murrain as undoubtedly bird diseases, and partaking largely of the character of typhus; whilst the two other milder forms of the complaint, carbuncular and vesicular murrain, had their origin in a fungus growth in the parts affected. He had been for five years engaged in experiments to discover the real use of the iron in the blood. During the act of respiration a large amount of chemical action takes place; this, he states, cannot occur without a corresponding development of electricity, and the blood, through the iron it contains, was one of the best attractive agents for electricity known.

The abstraction of electricity from the blood causes it to assume a dark, pitchy character, and readily to decompose, whilst its presence prevents decomposition and promotes organization. It, therefore, follows that if iron does not exist in the blood globules they will not exert a due amount of attraction for the electricity or vital force developed, consequently it must be attracted by the next best conductor, the nerves. In health this is only done to a certain extent, any excess causing disease. In the author's opinion, the cause for the generation and virulence of the disease might be found in the various and severe electrical changes which have lately taken place.

Dr. CRISP thought that electricity had nothing whatever to do with the disease. He considered it to be a special poison, like cholera.

SECTION E.—GEOGRAPHY AND ETHNOLOGY.

TUESDAY.

'Ascent of the River Purus,' by Mr. W. CHANDELLS.

The Purus is one of the least known of the great tributaries of the Amazons, and has been a subject of great interest, not only to geographers but to the people of Peru and Brazil, from the fact that a few native traders sailing up it in canoes have reported it free from impediments to navigation, and from the supposition that the fine stream, the Madre de Dios, flowing from the southern provinces of Peru, formed its head-water. The Brazilians were further interested in it on account of the report that there was water communication between it and the great river Madeira above the cataracts, which might serve as an outlet for the productions of the interior province of Matto Grosso. In modern times, the Brazilian Government had despatched four expeditions from the Amazons up the river; but none of them had solved the problems connected with it or made accurate geographical observations during the voyage. Mr. Chandless, therefore, undertook to explore it in detail by his own unaided resources. He obtained, by a fortunate circumstance, a crew of Bolivian Indians to navigate his canoe, and, taking with him a complete outfit of instruments for observation, entered its mouth on the 12th of June, 1864. He continued his voyage until, on the 23rd of December, the river was so narrow and impeded with rocks that he could go no further. He was then 1,366 miles from its mouth, and at an altitude of only 1,088 feet above the sea-level. He penetrated as far as he could up both of the terminal forks of the river; but neither proved to be the Madre de Dios, being about 2° of latitude to the N.N.W. of that river, and lying in a position in which one of the eastern tributaries of the Ucayali is marked on the maps. The forest was everywhere so dense and lofty that from no point could a view be obtained of the Andes, although Mr. Chandless supposed they would be visible. Near these upper waters a primitive tribe of Indians was met with, who had never had intercourse with white men or with the trading Indians lower down; they were ignorant of the use of iron, and possessed hatchets

of stone.—The paper, which is a long one and full of interest, was announced by the President as intended to be read at one of the meetings of the Royal Geographical Society during the next session. Meantime, the author, who remains on the Amazons, intends to explore the Aquirí, one of the southern tributaries of the Purus, to ascertain whether this may not be the long-talked-of Madre de Dios.

Mr. BATES said he had sailed on the main Amazons past the mouth of the Purus four times, and had judged it to be only a second-rate tributary of the Amazons, not being more than a quarter of a mile wide; whilst five or six of the first-class tributaries were two or three miles broad at the mouth, and presented a blank horizon up the river as he sailed past them. The value of the Purus consisted in its offering an unimpeded channel of communication between the Atlantic coast and the rich southern provinces of Peru east of the Andes, whilst the main Amazon led directly to the northern provinces.

'On the City Life of Bokhara,' by Dr. A. VÄMBERY.

'Notes on the Russian Frontiers in Central Asia,' by Sir H. C. RAWLINSON.—Sir Henry Rawlinson commenced by stating that the present boundaries of Russia in Central Asia were delineated with accuracy on the maps of Asia published by Messrs. Stanford and by Prof. Kiepert, of Berlin. He then gave a brief narrative of the successive encroachments of Russia in this direction. Formerly the frontier extended from the northern shores of the Caspian, by a long bend to the north, to the northern frontier of Chinese Tartary. Along this border was formed the Orenburg and Siberian line of outposts, and south of it, extending to the Khanats of Khiva, Bokhara and Khokand, dwelt the numerous hordes of Kirghises on their steppes. In 1847 the Russians constructed here three forts to strengthen their hold on the region. The Kirghis steppe is traversed only by a few roads, the most important of which runs from Orsk, north of the Aral Sea, to the Jaxartes. With the exception of one part of it, over the Karakum sands, the whole is traversable by wheeled carriages. By recent encroachments, the Russian frontier is now extended to the Jaxartes; but the line as it at present stands is rather difficult to trace—at least, that part of it which extends from Fort Perofski, on the Jaxartes, to the river Talas; even Russian officers do not know its exact course in its bend to the south of the Lake Issyk-Kul. Their efforts have been directed to the connexion of the Issyk-Kul line of forts with those of the Jaxartes, the result of which will be the absorption of the Khokand territory on the left bank of the Jaxartes. The advance of the Russians in this direction has been attended with great benefits to science and civilization; but, although the fear of Russian invasion is a chimera, it behoves us to consider what will be the political effect upon our own empire in India when there shall be a powerful Russo-Asiatic neighbour on its northern borders. Whilst the Russians have been advancing a distance of 1,000 miles from north to south, our Indian empire has extended 1,000 miles from south to north. The actual distance of our political frontier (the frontier of Kashmir, a country under our protection) from the nearest point in Russian territory is now between 400 and 500 miles, that is, from Karakorum to the Thian Chan range; but our real frontier at Peshawur is above 1,000 miles distant, according to the most recent itineraries of our agents who have traversed the intervening space. The most recent advance of Russia in Khokand has provoked the hostility of the neighbouring Khan of Bokhara, and it is within the bounds of probability that the forces of Russia and Bokhara are now in collision.

'On a Recent Survey of the Chain of Mont Blanc,' by Mr. A. ADAMS-REILLY.—The author described the imperfect state of our knowledge with regard to the topography of the Mont Blanc range, and the motives that had induced him to construct, on his own surveys, his elaborate and now well-known map, the large original sketch of which was exhibited. The errors in the delineation of this and of other mountain chains arose from the fact that

they usually form the boundaries of countries, and the Government surveyors of each do not co-operate with each other, but carry their work simply to the watershed of the ridges. It thus frequently happens that the surveys of the two sides of a ridge are found, when compared, to contradict each other. Before the visit of Windham and Pocock, in 1741, the valleys of Mont Blanc were unknown to the world, and the glaciers of the range were so erroneously delineated up to the year 1842, when Prof. J. Forbes commenced his observations on the Mer de Glace, that he found himself obliged to make an entirely new survey of that glacier and its tributaries. This was the only portion of the chain accurately laid down when the Mont Blanc sheet of the Swiss Federal Survey came out in 1861, which, as the Swiss surveyors only gave, from their own work, the small portion lying within Swiss territory, filling in the rest from the Sardinian Survey, was found to be untrue to nature. The author commenced his surveys in 1863. The glacier system of Mont Blanc may be roughly said to be divided into three parts by two large clefts; that on the west being formed by the north and south glaciers of Miage, and that on the east by the glaciers of Argentière and Mont Dolent. In each case the two glacier valleys advance from opposite sides deep into the heart of the chain, and their upper heads are only separated by rocky walls scarcely half a mile in thickness. The centre of the chain is occupied by an immense glacier basin, which, again, is subdivided into three glaciers having but one common outlet, the Mer de Glace. From the point where it makes an abrupt turn to the north to return again on the other side of the Glacier de Miage, the backbone of the chain runs pretty nearly from south-west to north-east. At several spots, as, for instance, the Aiguille du Glacier, Aiguille Verte, and Mont Dolent, a number of ridges radiate towards the same point, culminating in a magnificent peak, and at others the main ridge thickens into an enormous mountain mass, like the Grandes Jorasses. The Swiss surveyors, in carrying their triangulation up to the eastern side of one of the ridges on the Sardinian frontier, which had been triangulated by the Sardinians on the western side, mistook the position, and inserted it on their map as a separate mountain chain. In doing this it was necessary to annihilate four square miles of glacier, and to pull together into one two mountains which had previously stood apart.

'On Some New Expeditions in the Chain of Mont Blanc, including the Ascent of the Aiguille Verte,' by Mr. E. WHYMPER.—While thousands visit Chamonix, and hundreds make what is called "the tour of Mont Blanc," few explore its recesses and glaciers; and maps have not until lately afforded much information, for they have been drawn on the old "backbone" system of sticking Mont Blanc in the middle and the Aiguille on the top. Mr. Whymper then proceeded to detail the particulars of the visit he and his party made to the Alps in the beginning of July, 1864, one result of which was the construction of a satisfactory map by Mr. Reilly, and which was exhibited to the audience. The map explained how extremely unlike a "backbone" the chain was. On the 5th the party set out, with guides, to attack the Argentière, but failed to gain the summit in consequence of not being able to follow the ridge upon which they set out—the ridge Col du Chardonnet. They therefore went down a certain distance, ascended by another glacier, and struck the ridge at a much higher point. Then a violent wind came on, which blew away the snow in sheets, and rendered their lives a burden to them. But they persevered and mounted a ridge, after cutting steps as they went along. When they had nearly attained the summit the guide became puzzled, and the reason was soon found, for they found that they were standing over a snow-covered cavern (not a crevasse) of unknown extent. The ice and snow covering it were very thin, and the discovery was naturally not an agreeable one. Not being as enthusiastic as Mr. Brown in the exploration of ice-caverns, they got off as soon as they could. Next morning they started to go to the Mont Dolent, which is the sharpest summit of the entire range, but is easy of access, and being at the junction of three ridges was a

most valuable station. The view from here is superb, and well repays the visitor. Mont Blanc, however, still towers 3,000 feet above. The moraine of the Miage, one of the wonders of the world, was also visited, and the frozen waves and boulders that fall 7,000 feet excited great wonder. Having thus described their expedition, and paid a high tribute of praise to Mr. Reilly's map, Mr. Whymper went on to remark on the extreme paucity of practicable passes over the main chain. The Col du Géant was the only pass by which persons of ordinary walking powers could cross from Chamonix to Cormeyeur in one day. The main, if not the whole difficulty in that was the passage of the séracs of its well-known ice-fall. Early in the year they are snowed up, and can be passed without much trouble; but towards the end of the year they are occasionally very difficult. Besides the Col du Géant, the main chain has now been traversed at eight points, viz., the Trelatéte, the Miage, the Dôme, Brenva, Triplet, Argentière, Tour Noire, and Chardonnet. All of these passes are over 11,000 and some over 12,000 feet high, and to all of them there are objections; while in the case of the last three it is necessary to ascend the Val Ferret, and cross the Col of the same name afterwards. The general conclusion Mr. Whymper came to was that there was only one point which could compete with the Col du Géant. Mr. Whymper next proceeded to state his adventures up the Val Ferret, and along the ridge that separates the glaciers of Argentière and Mont Dolent. They got to the top of the Col Ferret at half past five, rounded the slopes on its western side, traversed the glacier, and arrived at the foot of the couloir soon after eight. The Argentière glacier—a level plain of snow, scarcely sullied by shadow or streaked by crevasses—lay at their feet, but between them and it there was a mighty wall more than a thousand feet high of hard ice. Croz immediately went to work, and was lowered out by the others until they had got to the end of their 200 feet of rope. He then untied, and the rope was paid out by Almer and himself as Biener descended. They followed one by one, joined the others below, and the process was recommenced. After four hours had been passed in this way they approached sufficiently near the bottom to see that there was only one snow-bridge across it, and that it was on the opposite side. Croz was nearly tired out, so Almer went to work, and in three hours they got across, and soon after half past five, after spending seven hours and a quarter in the endeavour, they got across. It was then necessary to come back to the side they had left, and soon after half past five they got on the level glacier, raced down it, and arrived at Chamonix about ten o'clock. He was by no means surprised that these two attempts had turned out failures as far as usefulness was concerned, but he was desirous to do something that might be turned to account. Therefore, before quitting Chamonix, he resolved to try his hardest to ascend the Aiguille Verte. The superb position occupied by this mountain was well known. It looked scarcely less important than Mont Blanc itself. Not less than fifteen or sixteen separate attempts to ascend it had been made during the last twelve years. They set off—Almer, Biener, and himself. Poor Croz was engaged by some one else, and remained idle at Chamonix. They pitched their tent in the couloir, and with the guides he went to the top of the rocks to look at the Aig before the sun went down. At half-past three next morning they started and moved towards the peak. He believed in the practicability of ascending mountains in the Alps by their southern sides—that is, if it were necessary to traverse rocks, and for this reason: the sun falls on the south side, melts the snow, which trickles down into all the cracks and crannies of the rocks; night comes on, the water is frozen, and the rocks are rent off. This process was continually going on, and the result was that the southern faces of most of the peaks in the Alps were more climbable than any other. It was true that sometimes the beds of rocks might be so disposed as to make the south side extremely awkward; but he had seldom found it so, and on principle had always selected the southern sides for trial. They were now on the south side of the Verte, and the rocks above, which they would be obliged to traverse, were well broken up

—no walls, but all disintegration and ruin. In less than a couple of hours they got to the rocks on the left. At seven o'clock in the morning they found themselves at a height of nearly 13,000 feet. The summit was now immediately over their heads, and they worked towards it as directly as they could; but the rocks were occasionally bad, and they were continually driven to the left. At a quarter to ten they came to a termination, as the mountain was much less steep and the snow was able to accumulate sufficiently to cover them entirely. Another half-hour of snow-walking took them to the little snowy cave which forms the summit. It is needless to enlarge upon the view. A peak that was seen from a great number of points in a mountainous district must command a fine view. It is of course absurd to suppose that the finest views were seen from the highest summit. The panorama from Mont Blanc is notoriously unsatisfactory, and the reason is obvious. When you stand on the top you look down on all the rest of Europe. There is nothing to look up to—all is below. There is no point for the eye to rest upon. The view is panoramic. It is like the impossible case of a man having attained all his desires. The position must be unsatisfactory, for there is nothing to aspire to. The world must needs seem flat. But in the Verte there is not this objection. You see valleys, villages, fields, mountains interminably rolling away, lakes nestling in the hollows; you hear the tinkling of sheep-bells, and the roar of avalanches as they descend to the valleys. But this is not what fixes itself on the memory. It is that great dome, with its sparkling crest high above; it is the rolling glaciers which descend—the butresses which support it. Even on this mountain, however, far removed as the climbers were from the unclean world, they could not forget it, for they heard distant howlings and moans, which, as they subsequently ascertained, proceeded from a party of tourists who were blowing through a horn with the notion of frightening them. In that, however, the tourists were disappointed. When they descended at eleven o'clock they found that their porter had speculated on their being killed or losing themselves, and therefore had eaten all their provisions. Four hours more took them to Chamonix. Thus at last was found the Aiguille Verte, the only pass which is superior to the Col du Géant in all the qualities which make a useful pass, and, as the writer believed, the only gap in the ridge which can be traversed by all persons in all weathers with facility.

'Ascent of Mont Blanc by the Glacier de Brenva,' by Mr. G. S. MATHEWS.

'On Certain Simious Skulls, with especial Reference to a Skull from Louth, in Ireland,' by Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE.

'Notes on Arabia,' by Lieut.-Col. L. PELLY.— In this paper, Col. Pelly communicated some further details regarding Arabia, in addition to those he had already made public in the *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society*. The most interesting related to the Selahab, Seleb, or Selahib tribe, who inhabit portions of the interior. On certain festivals, particularly on occasions of marriage and circumcision, they fix a wooden cross, dressed in red cloth, and adorned at the top with feathers, at the door of the person married or circumcised. At this signal the people collect together, and dance round the cross. The word *Seleb* means a cross; but some of the caste derive their name from *Es-solb-el-Arab*, i.e. from the back of the Arabs, meaning that they are the pure descendants of the aboriginal Arabs. The Mohammedans, on the other hand, stigmatize them as outcasts. Those of the tribe who have immigrated into Nejd and other Mohammedan settlements, conform outwardly to the religious rites of the dominant creed; but in their own tents, and when alone, they do not conform. No intermarriage takes place between the Selahib and the Arabs. The Selahib are capital sportsmen; they live largely on venison, and wear a long shirt, coming down to the feet, of deerskin. But their ordinary diet is locusts and dates. They wander for pasture for their sheep and camels during eight months in the year. They profess to reverence Mecca, but state that their own proper place of pilgrimage is Haran in Irak or Mesopotamia. It is said, also, that their principal people

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have psalms and other books written in Chaldean or Assyrian. They worship the Pole-star, which they call *Jah*, as the one immovable point which directs all travellers by sea or land. They reverence also a star in the constellation called *Jedy*, corresponding with Aries. In adoring either of these heavenly bodies, the Selain stands with his face towards it, and stretches out his arms so as to represent a cross with his own body. They believe in one God, and pray three times a day,—at sunrise, at the declension from the meridian, and at sunset. They are peaceful, and markedly hospitable, like all people who have nothing to give. The Selain themselves assert that they are a tribe of Sabaeans, who emigrated to Nejd.—Col. Pelly informed the Meeting that the *Imaum of Nejd*, who had received his mission so favourably, had been assassinated soon after his departure from Arabia.

The PRESIDENT believed the Selain not to be of Semitic race; their customs were of ante-Mohammedan date. There are numerous traces of ancient religions—he himself had observed about a dozen—lingering in the countries near the frontiers of Turkey and Persia; and the investigation of these would be an object worthy of the special attention of some competent traveller.

SECTION F.—ECONOMIC SCIENCE AND STATISTICS.

TUESDAY.

'Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Question of Uniformity of Weights and Measures.'

'On the Practical Advantages of the Metric System of Weights and Measures,' by Mr. F. P. FELLOWES.

'On Mural Standards for exhibiting the Measures of Length legalized in the United Kingdom,' by the Rev. J. YATES.—The only mural standards exhibited in this country, with which the author was acquainted, were those in the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, where we see the mètre, the yard, the braccio, and the palm, and, secondly, those on the outside wall of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, showing the yard, the foot, and the inch. Nevertheless, the exhibition of similar standards is required by law, and practised in France, and its adoption in this country has been recommended by the Royal Commission for restoring the lost standards. The present period seems eminently suitable for the more perfect attainment of this object, because the English system of legal weights and measures has received an enlargement of the highest importance by the passing of the Act for legalizing the metric system. Also, the existing standards in many of the cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom are extremely faulty. The only measures which can be conveniently exhibited on the walls of public buildings, are the measures of length. These are the yard and the mètre, with their divisions. The author's design in this paper is to inquire how these can be exhibited by means of mural standards in the best manner. This inquiry may be conducted under the following heads: the material; the form and dimensions; the description by means of letters, figures, and other marks; the distribution and exposure to public view; the use in education; the aid to be afforded by the British Association. The material he is disposed to recommend is that variety of gun-metal which is known by the name of Baily's metal, having been introduced into use for similar purposes by the late Francis Baily. The standard yard of Great Britain is made of this metal, and the Act of Parliament defines its composition. It is a mixture of copper, zinc, and tin. Its great recommendation is that it does not rust. In other respects it is probably on a par with the other metals which are used or may be suggested for similar purposes, such as gold, silver, platinum, copper, brass, bronze, or steel. It is sufficiently hard; it is fusible, and takes good impressions in the mould; it shows fine and clear lines on being engraved. The author suggested for consideration, whether the Baily's metal standard should be gilt. He proposes that the instrument should be 102 centimetres long, 6 centimetres broad, and 1 centimetre thick. The proposed descriptions by letters, figures, &c., were illustrated by a drawing, and

for the composition and arrangement he was indebted to Mr. Frank Fellows. The yard is placed above, the mètre below. Above the yard is its description, in these words: "Yard divided into Feet and Inches," after which the title of the Act of Parliament is quoted, by which Act the yard is defined, and its legality established, viz., "5 Geo. IV. ch. 74." The space on which these titles are to be inscribed is proposed to be 1 centimetre broad. The antithesis to this space is that at the bottom of the instrument, also 1 centimetre broad. It describes the measure immediately above it, and the Act of Parliament, by which that measure is defined, and its legality established, in these terms: "Mètre divided into Decimètres, Centimètres, and Millimètres.—27th and 28th Victoria, ch. 117." He proposed that these descriptive titles be shown in the capital *Egyptian letters*, because these are not only the most simple, but the least liable to sustain injury, or to attract dust and moisture. They are not only very distinct, but appear most likely to remain clear and entire. But there is another question, on which he wished for information and guidance. Should they be in relief, or be depressed? If in relief, ought they to be made by casting? If depressed, ought they to be made by engraving, sinking, or punching? The middle breadth of 4 centimetres is equally divided between the yard and the mètre. Each of these has a space of 2 centimetres, and the space belonging to each is again divided into equal breadths, each of which has, consequently, a breadth of 1 centimetre. The space belonging to the yard is a yard long, and is intended to be the exact measure of a yard. The space beneath it, and contiguous to it, belonging to the mètre, is, in like manner, intended to be the exact measure of a mètre. The upper half of the space belonging to the yard, being a centimetre broad, is divided lengthways into 3 feet; the lower space, also a centimetre broad, is divided into 36 inches. Thus far the division is that appointed by Act of Parliament. But a further sub-division is thought expedient through a small portion of the scale, viz., the division into eighths of an inch. Eighths, rather than tenths or twelfths, of an inch has been chosen, because eighths are far more extensively in use, and also some persons of eminence and high authority in this country think a binary much preferable to a decimal or duodecimal division. Proceeding on the same principle and in strict conformity with the law of the country, the mètre is divided lengthways into decimètres, centimètres and millimètres. But, whereas the yard has the greater divisions placed above and the smaller divisions below, in the case of the mètre, the smaller divisions have been placed above and the larger below. This arrangement produces great facilities for comparison, because it brings the small divisions of the two scales into immediate opposition. Thus, we find as approximations, one-eighth of an inch = 3 millimètres; one quarter = 6 millimètres; one half = 12½ millimètres; one inch = 25 millimètres; two inches = 50 millimètres; four inches = 100 millimètres. For greater exactness reference may be made to Rickard's Ready Reckoner, or Dowling's Comparative Tables. It is necessary to observe that both of these scales begin from the left hand and from the same perpendicular line. The spaces at the two ends of the instrument, which are extraneous to the yard and mètre scales, are each 1 centimetre wide. They will serve as guards to the two scales. At the same time they may add to the perfection of the instrument in the following ways. On the left hand we may have brackets to distinguish still more clearly between the yard and the mètre, and the names of the yard and the mètre with their divisions may be repeated. The name of the maker of the instrument may be engraved on the right hand. If the manufacture of these standards is intrusted to well-qualified persons; if they are provided with exact standards for their own use, and if they bestow due pains and care on those which they produce, the standards of their making will be sufficiently accurate for all common practical purposes, and there will be no necessity to seek assistance in providing linear measures from the Government. But the name of an artist of established reputation ought

to be engraved on the mural standard as a voucher for its correctness. The distribution and exposure to public view will be more especially considered when we come to the last topic, viz., the assistance to be afforded by the British Association. At the present place, the author only makes the obvious remark, that the mural standards should be put up wherever they will be least exposed to injury, and can be seen, examined and compared by the greatest number of persons. The immediate and primary use of these standards will be to make the two methods of linear measurement universally known, to render the terms, especially those belonging to the mètre, familiar to the people, and to enable all persons to verify their own measures. But the author thought it very important to have an eye also to the use of these instruments in education. For this purpose he has proposed exact dimensions in length, breadth and thickness on the metric scale. The consequence will be that they may give many useful and interesting lessons in mensuration and geometry; and he believes in this way the instrument may be of great use in large schools for every class of the community. Since the promotion of the Metric System is an object of universal interest, and one in which science has been applied in the most admirable manner to practical purposes, the author thinks there is none to which the British Association for the Advancement of Science can with greater propriety extend its patronage, and devote a portion of its funds. In connexion with this object a Committee was appointed at Newcastle-on-Tyne; this Committee was re-appointed last year at Bath, and was authorized to spend the sum of 20*l.* This money has not been applied for, no specific object, requiring such an expenditure, having presented itself to the Committee. He desired that the Committee be re-appointed, and be encouraged to proceed, and authorized to construct mural standards, of the best possible description. Let one of these be offered to every place where the British Association has held a meeting, two or three being offered where two or three meetings have been held. Let the authorities of those towns, cities or universities be requested to expose these standards to view in such places and in such manner as they may judge most suitable and expedient. The Association may thus acknowledge, in a handsome and appropriate manner, the kindness and generosity which it has experienced; it may confer a public benefit, and supply a great deficiency in the provisions for conducting trade; it may aid the movement, than which none, perhaps, is at the present moment more important in the interests of education and philanthropy, and it may vindicate and exalt science in the eyes of all reflecting persons, by showing its utility in every-day life, and in all commercial transactions. If a grant, say of 50*l.*, is made by the Association this year, for obtaining and distributing mural standards, he would propose as a question for this Meeting, whether it would be advisable to offer a prize of 10*l.* for the best pattern, and one of 5*l.* for the second best.

'Statistics of the Post-Office Savings Banks,' by Mr. A. HILL.

'On the Proposed Extension of Government Administration to Railways,' by Mr. T. DE MESCHIN.

'On the Statistics of Crime in Birmingham, as compared with other large towns,' by Mr. J. T. BUNCE.

Reports on Local Industries:—Papier Mâché—Steel Wire—Steel Pens—Crown and Sheet Glass—Brassfounding—Lighthouse Lamps and Reflectors—Iron Manufacture of Staffordshire—Stained Glass.

SECTION G.—MECHANICAL SCIENCE.

TUESDAY.

Prof. RANKINE read the interim Report of the Committee appointed to make experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the difference between the resistance of water to floating and immersed bodies, consisting of Prof. Rankine, J. Scott Russell, J. R. Napier, and W. Froude. The experiments not being complete, the Committee deferred a detailed Report. The Committee had several meet-

ings during last winter and spring, and agreed to a programme of experiments. Two models of ship-shape, four feet long, and painted, were made and employed in the experiments; each of them consisted of two equal and similar halves, joined together at the middle water-line. One model was made in two parts, joined at the circular midship section, so that by turning the after-body through a right angle about a longitudinal axis, the water-lines could be converted into buttock lines, and vice versa. The experiments were made according to the method formerly put in practice by Mr. Scott Russell, in which the uniformity of the propelling force was maintained by means of a regulating weight hanging from a pulley, under which the hauling cord passes, the model being guided in a straight course by means of a stretched wire. The experiments were made principally at speeds not exceeding the natural length of the wave corresponding to the length of the models, viz., about two knots per hour, and some at higher speeds. The experiments were made with the models both totally immersed and only half immersed. The execution of the experiments was superintended by Mr. Scott Russell, as being the only member of the Committee resident in or near London. The actual performance of the experiments was entrusted by Mr. Russell to Mr. J. Quant, who had performed the duty with great skill and assiduity. A lake in Blackheath Park was kindly granted for the experiments by Dr. Joseph Kidd. Twenty-eight experiments had been made on the first model, with the following results: 1. The resistance, when immersed so as to be just covered with water, and no more, was more than double its resistance when half immersed, at the same speed. 2. When the after-body of the model was turned so as to convert the water-line into buttock-line, its resistance was increased, and that whether the model was half immersed or just covered. The Report deferred the detailing of the description of the experiments until they should be completed.

A paper was then read, the joint production of Mr. T. TATE and Mr. W. FAIRBAIRN, 'On the Strength of Materials in Relation to the Construction of Iron Ships.'—The paper first dealt with the qualities of iron best adapted for iron ships, and especially ships of war. The quality of iron estimated by work expended on the ultimate elongation of a bar one foot long, and one square inch in section, was first considered. This work, or dynamic effect, gives a comparative measure of the powers of resistance of different kinds of material to a strain of the nature of impact. The values of this modulus or co-efficient of dynamic resistance, determined by W. Fairbairn's experiments for different plates or bars of iron, show that the resistance of thick plates to rupture is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that of thin plates; that the resistance of thick steel plates is about one-tenth greater than that of the Low Moor iron, plate A; and that the resistance of these latter plates is one-half greater than that of the rolled plates D. Similarly, the work expended in the deflection of a bar, supported at its extremities by a force applied at its centre, may be taken as the modulus of dynamic resistance of different kinds of material to a force of impact tending to produce transverse rupture. The next section of the paper gave the maximum transverse strain produced on a ship when the load is unequally distributed. The point of maximum strain is not always at the centre of the ship, as many practical men assume. Section 3. gave the value of the moment of inertia for different elementary sections of material. Section 4. gives certain simple, general, analytical expression for the moment of inertia of complex sections of girders, such as that of an iron ship. The distribution of the material, so that the beam may have the greatest strength, was then investigated, and the formulæ applied to the section of one of our most approved iron ships show that the upper portion of the ship should be about one-half stronger than it is, in order to have a proper distribution of the material. Section 5. treated of the penetration of iron armour-plated by flat-faced tempered steel shot. The following formula, derived from Mr. Fairbairn's experiments on punching, is given. The work requisite to penetrate a plate varies as

the square of its thickness multiplied by the radius of the shot, or $U = C r t^2$. The constant of this formula, deduced from the experiments with ordnance, may be taken as 24,400. It is shown from this formula, that a 100-lb. steel shot, 5 inches in diameter, with the velocity of 1,200 feet per second, would completely perforate an armour-plate exceeding 5 inches in thickness.

Mr. E. A. COWPER read a paper 'On the Effect of Blowing Blast Furnaces with Blast of very High Temperature.'

The next paper was by Sir J. BURGOYNE, 'On Railways in War,' but the discussion was deferred till the next Meeting of the Association, as the subject was still undergoing consideration and several engineers were busy preparing reports on several of the matters treated of in the paper. The paper opened by stating that railways would have an important effect on war, and that it was a matter of interest to ascertain the means of obtaining the greatest advantage from them, and what would be their precise capabilities. A vague idea existed that armies could be transported from place to place and to a seat of war with the same facility and speed as ordinary travellers, whereas there were many circumstances connected with the conveyance of the former which would show any such contention to be quite fallacious. With regard to a small body of infantry, there was no reason why this should not be the case; but with large forces, and with cavalry and artillery, and all the accessories of an army, its baggage, camp equipage, spare ammunition, its waggons, &c., enormous means would be required, and difficulties would arise which called for study and consideration to reduce them to a minimum. How to adapt the ordinary railway passenger and horse carriages and trucks in the best manner to the transport of troops of all kinds, and how to get the troops most rapidly in and out of them, would be easily ascertained, if it had not been so already; the great desideratum was to define how large forces could be moved in greatest strength, with the most rapidity, on single railways or by a limited number of lines, for it was on these calculations, having under consideration the several lines which could be brought to bear on the operations, that the generals in command must arrange their plans. The basis for consideration would be: What could be done by any one line of railway with its ordinary means, or aided by additional means from other lines of the same gauge with which it was connected, on the same level, and which might not have the same pressure on them? To afford an idea of what might be required, it might be assumed that the officers and soldiers would occupy the space of ordinary travellers, and consequently it would become a question how many passenger carriages, in how many trains, each drawn by one locomotive, would be required to convey 1,000 men, with their officers; and how many horses of cavalry, artillery, and for staff of infantry regiments, one truck would carry. The guns and equipments of each battery of field-pieces, with number of trucks necessary to carry them, should be defined, as well as the number of horses per battery of horse or foot artillery. To give an idea of the amount of conveyance required for such forces on one occasion, to transport a battery of field-pieces, with its horses and carriages, and about 500 cavalry, merely to a review, no less than six trains were required, consisting each of thirty railway carriages. Viewing the very large means necessary for moving any but a very moderate force, and the embarrassments which would attend the undertaking in the rapid succession required to be effective, it became a matter of much interest for railway engineers to consider and define how arrangements could be made in providing, stationing, and working the trains that would tend to facilitate the service, and what, with the adoption of these measures, would be the capabilities of conveyance of troops of given strength to given distances in given times on emergent occasions on any one railway; whether, for instance, as the great traffic is in one direction, both lines of rails might not be used for it for certain distances, under the best arrangements which can be made for the return of carriages, &c. These researches are required not only to ascertain the best modes of accelerating the movements, but also to come to a

clear understanding as to what, even when duly organized, can be obtained from railways in rapidity of transport for large bodies. It is manifest that, as they approach the scene of action, the railways would have less influence on the immediate theatre of warfare itself; it would be somewhat dangerous to trust to them at all under the chance of the enemy interrupting the communication between the divisions and resources of the army. For short distances there would rarely be much advantage, as regards time, in moving troops by them, on account of the time required for getting to and away from the railway, and into and out of the carriages. Their great advantage would be for concentrating troops and means, by converging lines, from the interior to some appropriate point forming a basis of operations; for gradually bringing up reinforcements and other resources to the rear of the army; and for the speedy and better removal of sick or wounded prisoners, and all incububances. They will also be particularly favourable to retreating forces, by expediting their movements; while, by the destruction of the lines behind them, the enemy would be deprived of any use of them. The partial destruction and the repairs to railways will hereafter be an engineering duty for which the service should be prepared. Every railway, even in the vicinity of the operations in a campaign, will be of much value, so long as it can be used without danger of interruption, and therefore it becomes a subject of interest to possess a knowledge of the best means for their destruction, and how to apply them in cases where the lines are likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, or for re-establishing any that may have been more or less injured. It is clear that a portion of a railway might be for hours in temporary possession of a part of an army, who might, from ignorance, or want of some trifling means, be unable to take advantage of the occasion, and thus would leave it to be re-possessed by its enemy in perfect order, when, by due instruction and a little preparation, an influential amount of damage might have been done to it. The military engineers of an army have attached to them in the field a selected assortment of the most useful implements for the different services most frequently required of them, the proportions of which they vary according to the prospect of the nature of the approaching engineering operations, such as for sieges, entrenchments, destruction or repairs of roads and bridges, mining, &c.; and they are practised in the best modes of applying whatever means may be at hand for their purpose. To these must now be added what is applicable to the destruction and re-establishment of railways. In damaging a railway to impede the progress and available means of an enemy's army, the object will of course be to do as little injury to a great convenience of the country as is consistent with the primary consideration of crippling the military resources of the enemy for the time. Should the exigencies of the period justify extensive damage, it will be done by blowing in tunnels, bridges, viaducts, or embankments, by mines and processes as practised by military engineers, with regard to the old routes, to the extent that circumstances will allow, and may admit. The object for consideration, however, here is, how the peculiarities of a railway can be dealt with to most effect, in a summary manner, with little time and small means. Taking it, then, as a question rather of dismantling than of destroying, the first measure would be the taking up and destroying of the rails. This would be easy enough to a party of railway navvies provided with their apparatus; but what we require is, some instructions and practice given to soldiers how to do as much as possible with the smallest means. Thus, instead of being, as at present, from ignorance, perfectly helpless, they might be taught, under previous instruction, that even a few stray articles for implements, such as might be found in an adjoining house, as might be described, could, on an emergency, be made available to some extent. Possibly it could be shown that, after a first rail was removed, the very article itself, with the sleepers, &c., might be used to extend the damage. Another question would be, having in view the possibility of obtaining a temporary power over a railway which is of service to the

enemy, what very small and most portable assortment of implements might be carried with any detachment, being accompanied, if possible, by a few Sappers that would aid such a proceeding, and what would be the most effective process; and if the implements could be such as enter into the assortment forming part of the engineer field-equipment, required for other purposes, all the better. The rails being raised, the best disposition of them would be clearly to carry them away altogether; but it is very improbable that there would be available means of conveyance to render that practicable. The next most easy resource would be to scatter, hide, or bury them; but if it could be shown how they could be broken or rendered unserviceable, the effect would be still greater. The destruction of the sleepers would be much more easy, but the effect would be less, and the removal of the chairs, from their portability, would be easy, and also valuable for the object. With regard to the re-instatement of a damaged line, it would be instructing to know whether any temporary expedients can be adopted for the passage of locomotives and carriages, or even of the carriages only, across the places where the rails may have been removed, till new rails can be procured; and, if so, what those expedients may be, and how to be applied. One resource might be available in double lines, namely, to dismantle one of the double rows, from the nearest part untouched, to make good a thorough communication for at least one single line. It will be very desirable to obtain from railway engineers a consideration of all these matters, and special instructions drawn up on all expedients that can be suggested, in which the troops, but more particularly the engineer soldiers, might be subsequently practised; nothing of the kind, it is believed, having yet been undertaken.

Mr. J. M. CLEMENTS read a paper 'On a Machine for stitching Button-holes.'—The paper stated that the almost universal adaptation of the sewing-machine to manufacturing as well as domestic purposes, had given rise to a demand for a machine for working button-holes, most of the large manufacturing clothiers in England, and the shirt makers of Belfast, and other towns of Ireland, having for several years expressed their desire for, and great want of, such a machine. Having noticed the various attempts made to produce a button-hole-stitching machine, the paper described that introduced to notice by the writer, and proceeded to point out that it could be applied, not only to fine work, but also to heavy work, such as sail-making, railway sheets, or carpet-making. The machine would work sixty or seventy holes per hour, both sides alike, and with a knot stitch. The arrangements cannot be described intelligibly without inspection of the machine.

Mr. N. J. HOLMES read a paper 'On District Private Telegraphs.'—Having given an outline of the history and uses of the telegraph, and its great importance as a vehicle of communications in towns, he pointed out that the popular use of the telegraph depended upon the adoption of a more easy system of signs than was used by the ordinary telegraph companies. This desideratum was secured by Prof. Wheatstone's invention of the alphabetical telegraph in 1858. The communicator or transmitter, by which the operator with his finger spells out words, letter by letter, consisted of a box, fitted with a dial, round the face of which the letters of the alphabet were arranged. Opposite to each letter was a button, or finger-key. In the interior of the box was a magnetic arrangement, the generation of the currents being consequent upon the revolution of an armature, kept in continuous motion, when passed through its arrangements. A company was formed four years ago, for the promotion of this form of the telegraph, the use of which, in newspaper offices, was yearly increasing. Several papers had an independent system of their own between the Reporters' Gallery in the House of Commons and their offices. The *Daily Telegraph*, in addition to this, has wires to the residences of its managers. Its use was increasing among commercial houses generally. Though the company had been incorporated little more than four years, its system already extended throughout the United

Kingdom, at all points where commerce and manufacturing industry existed. Upwards of 2,000 miles of private wires had been erected by the company, employing upwards of 863 sets of instruments. The principle upon which the wires and instruments are supplied is that of rental. Comparatively few lines supplied were purchased by the parties using them, and when purchased, were those chiefly over private properties. The paper set forth a mass of information as to the details by which the system was worked, and the advantages arising from it. The paper was illustrated by working models.

Mr. G. BURT read a paper 'On a Pneumatic Hammer,' of which he submitted a model for inspection.—It was not pretended that the hammer at all approached the power of a steam-hammer of the same total weight, or that it would take the place of the steam-hammer for general smith's work. The advantages claimed for it were that it was very simple, especially in its single-acting form, as shown by the model; that there were no valves in constant motion and wear; that the momentum of the driving parts connected with the crank-shaft was very small, on account of their small extent of motion (a throw of 1 inch only being given to the 10-inch piston); that the wear on these parts was consequently very slight, also owing to the elastic nature of the medium between the driving and driven pistons; that there was an absence of all dropping of condensed steam, such as would invariably be caused by the use of a steam-hammer, and which would be fatal to a surface under the operation of being planished.

A paper was read 'On Grimshaw's Improved Atmospheric Hammer.'

Mr. W. SISSONS read a description of the Patent Steam Pile-Driver, manufactured by the firm of which he was a member. By the machine the ram falls twelve times in a minute, with a five-feet lift. The size of the bottom frame is only 7 feet 6 inches square, and it occupies a smaller space than an ordinary hand machine, and can be used in any situation, on land or afloat, where the other can. It supplies a deficiency long felt, viz., something more powerful and expeditious than hand machines, and something less ponderous and costly than those steam machines hitherto brought out. During the past six years fifty-four of them have been made; seven are in use on the Thames Embankment, and Mr. Brassey has five in operation in Galicia.

'On Mural Decimal Standards,' by Mr. J. YATES.

'On Electric Torpedoes,' by Mr. O. ROWLAND.

'On Warming, Lighting and Ventilating the Birmingham Town Hall,' by Mr. B. SMITH.

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

Mr. Thurston Thompson has, by the aid of four burners of magnesium light, succeeded in taking photographs of Mr. Macleod's 'The Death of Nelson,' recently finished in the Royal Gallery at Westminster. Messrs. Cundall & Fleming have achieved what may be styled a photographic triumph in copying Mr. Herbert's 'Moses' Descent from Sinai,' which is in the Peers' Robing Room of the Houses of Parliament. This has been effected in no fewer than twenty-one pieces, each of which represents a distinct operation; the result has been so successful that the junctures are made with extreme delicacy and the forms are not broken, as is common with such reproductions.

Many recent visitors to the Abbey Church of St. Mary, at Shrewsbury, must have noticed, with regret, that the very interesting monumental statue of the knight-justiciar lies near one of the doors, and in place which exposes it to risk of damage by ignorant or thoughtless persons. Could it not be removed to a safer situation? In the same church is a fine effigy of a crossed-legged knight, in banded ring-mail, without plate armour of any kind, c. 1230-50. Also a coped coffin-lid, with a fluted cross carved upon it, the head of which is in high relief, and the stem incised only; on the right-hand side of the stem is a figure of a priest, in high relief; near his face a bell is incised, and

on the other side, a chalice, book, and candlestick. Among the most curious relics in this church are the recumbent sixteenth-century statues of local dignitaries, which display the old coifs, and retain much colour.

Cowley Church, near Oxford, has been restored, or rather almost rebuilt, by Mr. Street, who, finding the old structure far gone in decay, rebuilt the whole, with the exception of the tower, south and east walls of the chancel, chancel arch, and south wall of the nave. The work has been carried out with great artistic success.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SADLER'S WELLS.—The nominal dramatic season commenced, as we have already informed our readers, at this theatre on Saturday week; the real season on last Saturday, when Miss Marriott, the directress, resumed her position on the London boards. Her provincial practice has, apparently, given her renewed health and additional vigour, and we never knew her to perform better or with more power and energy. The play selected for the occasion was Mr. Lovell's singularly-constructed drama of 'Love's Sacrifice,' a play not the most popular in the lady's *répertoire*, but one that is in some parts startlingly effective. Curiously enough, the action of this rather elegant drama is retrograde, and wholly occupied with the development of a past story, a chapter of which is told in each act by the hero, *Matthew Elmore*; and when, in the last act, he clears up the remaining mystery, the tale, and the play, too, are ended. The want of progress in the ostensible conduct and characters of the drama renders it somewhat heavy; but this is more than relieved by the excellence of the comic scenes. Fortunately for the performance, Miss Marriott has availed herself of the services of an excellent low comedian. Mr. John Rouse, as *Jean Ruse*, the famished clerk of the vindictive *Paul Lafont* (Mr. James Johnstone), presents a portrait thoroughly artistic, which once seen must be appreciated, and can scarcely be forgotten. Lafont himself is realized by Mr. Johnstone with a cool and quiet audacity which only so well-practised an actor could so readily command. But we must not omit to notice the *Matthew Elmore* of Mr. James Bennett. Exceedingly well known at Stratford-on-Avon, and in the provinces, as a tragedian of uncommon merit, Mr. Bennett has had comparatively few opportunities of addressing a metropolitan audience. We welcome him with much satisfaction, as an intelligent and remarkably effective actor, though with a peculiarity of voice to which we have to get accustomed. His style is the familiar and colloquial, and we know no one who has made it tell more powerfully. It is to be regretted that his engagement is a brief one, and will, indeed, endure only a fortnight longer. The very interesting character of *Hermine de Vermont* was admirably sustained by Miss M. A. Bellair, who has been lately sustaining leading business in Dublin, and is a valuable acquisition to the London stage. The tragedy was preceded by the comedietta of 'The Lovers' Quarrels,' which is an excerpt from one of Congreve's comedies, and acts with a lightness and airiness which commend the wit of the olden time, though occasionally gross, to the taste of a modern audience. It was capitally well acted. Mr. Rouse as *Sancho*, Miss Minnie Davis as *Jacinta*, and Miss Leigh as *Donna Leonora*, left nothing to be desired. Mr. Rouse sang the song of "What is a woman like?" with excellent effect, and was deservedly encored. With such acting-talent as the conductors of this theatre have this season supplied, they deserve success.

PRINCESS'S.—This theatre was the scene, on Wednesday last, of an indescribable "row." On that night the well-known novel of Mr. Charles Reade, entitled 'It is Never too Late to Mend,' was placed on the boards in the author's own version. In other versions it is already familiar to the audiences of transpontine and East-End theatres, and has been made the subject of more than one trial at law; accordingly, it has been frequently noticed in our columns. Nevertheless, the audience of Wednesday appeared to consider

that the theme and subject of the play were then on trial, and proceeded to judge it as a new piece. They were somewhat piqued to this probably by the style in which the piece was produced. At the very commencement two farming gentlemen appeared on horseback, and Mr. Vining himself appeared on a donkey. Then came the picture of prison life, and the episode of the poor boy who suffered from the brutality of the governor. This scene, always painful, was rendered still less supportable by the introduction of accessories. Gangs of convicts passed before the spectator, while the treadmill, with all its horrors, was exhibited. Next came the representation of the Silent System, with a melo-dramatic accompaniment of human passion and agony. At this point the audience began to show signs of repugnance. They were somewhat conciliated by the extreme beauty of the scenes in Australia, which do the utmost credit to Mr. F. Lloyd's ingenuity and pencil. That of the Ravine, in fact, forms one of the most complete sets we ever witnessed. In the acting of the drama there was much to commend. Mr. Vining, as the thief *Tom Robinson*, played very judiciously; and Mr. S. Calhaem, as *Jacky*, presented an admirable picture of an Australian native. In the form in which the work has hitherto appeared, it has been popular both in town and country. In the new form, imposed on it by Mr. Reade himself, everything is elaborated and exaggerated, and by bad stage-arrangements things which ought to have been thrown into shade are brought prominently forth into the light.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

The "statistics" of the sale of the musical copyrights of Messrs. Addison & Lucas, the other day, brought to the hammer by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, are full of curious matter for thought, not without encouragement for those who steadily fix their eyes on the fact that what is good must, will, and does, ultimately assert itself as valuable, even though, for a while, it be vexatiously shoved aside and shouldered by trash. Thus, while we find two ballads by Linley, of no earthly value, selling for the sums of 221*l.* and 9*l.* respectively, we perceive, also, with great satisfaction, that six songs by Dr. Bennett (real music, albeit less fit for the use of *casino*-warblers and young ladies afraid of a difficult accompaniment) went therewith a raised figure of 32*l.* Again, we are glad to see that Mr. Hatton's four-part songs (the number not named) brought 44*l.* Then, what a revelation is thrown on the successes of English operas, successively blazoned by our contemporaries, by such facts and figures as the following! Mr. Balf's entire opera, "Blanche de Nevers" (full of ballads), was knocked down for 65*l.*, his "Puritan's Daughter" for 159*l.*, his "Armourer of Nantes" for 12*l.* Compare sums like these (recollecting that many an opera has "brought itself home" on a single song) with those given for the copyrights of two oratorios—works which inevitably can only be performed at rare intervals. Mr. Costa's "Eli," says the slip forwarded to us, produced 412*l.*; his "Naaman," 56*l.*

The English Opera season at Covent Garden Theatre will commence, say the advertisements, on Saturday the 21st.

For Mr. A. Mellon's Benefit Concert, given on the last night of his season, the overture to M. Gounod's "La Nonne Sanglante" was announced. This composition has never, we believe, been played till now, having been withdrawn when the opera was given in Paris, owing to the great length of the opera. It merits a high place among modern overtures, though some of its significance is lost by its severance from the story it was written to precede. From our remark it will be understood that the overture belongs to the class of overtures which are not preludes so much as indexes. It may be neither in Nature nor in Art (and the two are in some points one) that a novelist, in his Introduction, should display a pattern-card of all his marked characters and moving scenes, thereby leaving nothing for surprise to come. But, seeing that imaginative musical creation has customs and conditions of its own which defy precedent and parallel, and that, in it, satisfaction by repetition is as essential to its being as surprise, the question

is not one to be settled by aphorism, for or against. In the case under notice, the broken passage (pp. 4 and 5 of the Pianoforte Score, Choudens) —made all the more mysterious by its ground bass, on a strange and uncouth figure of four *staccato* notes—announces a ghastly March of the Dead, in that after-scene which contains the strongest supernatural effects in music that we recall (not excepting those of Weber and Meyerbeer). The leading phrase of the fiery *Allegro*, which follows, bears a family likeness to others heard before it; but it is almost as difficult to find an original minor theme at the speed required as it is to make a vulgar one at any speed—the latter peculiarity of the mode being a main reason why modern composers show such a preference for the use of it. The second subject of this *Allegro* has an amplitude of sweep characteristic of M. Gounod, whose inspirations are rarely scant of breath, and who possesses that power over continuity which only belongs to those who have mastered counterpoint, —the absence of which amounts to one of the most ungracious peculiarities of the German composers of our day, too many of whom produce only flaring patchwork, the effect of which is made by a succession of discordant surprises, and not by the development of beautiful forms. From whichever side it be considered, this overture to "La Nonne" is a fine work, worthy of being admitted into the list of standard orchestral novelties.

The most important foreign rumour of the week is that M. Auber, the honourable and honoured veteran, whose last and best overture (as was mentioned a week ago) was written for England, is about to resign his appointment as Principal to the Conservatoire of Paris. The nomination of his successor will be something of a "kettle cast" (to use a homely Scotch proverb); since the post is about the highest musical post in Europe.

We were misled by foreign papers into stating (as we did with regret) that M. Duprez intended to emerge from his retreat, and to sing in his own "Joan of Arc." —*La Pucelle* will be represented in his opera by Mlle. Brunetti, who made a good impression here a couple of seasons ago.

A new singer, Mlle. Castrì, is to appear at the Italian Opera, at Paris, in "Martha," of whom good hopes are entertained.

M. Chérubier's opera at the Théâtre Lyrique, announced last week, is, according to the *Gazette Musicale*, good for nothing.

The Boccherini journal, of Florence, mentions the name of a new Italian composer, Signor Luvini, whose opera is entitled "Un' Eredità in Corsica." —In the new "Romeo and Juliet," by Signor Marchetti, which is in preparation at Trieste, Signor and Madame Tiberini will sustain the characters of hero and heroine.—Signor Pedrotti's "Marion Delorme" will also be produced at Trieste.

Madame Faure-Lefebvre, like Madame Ugalde, seems to meditate leaving sung for spoken drama; having played the part of *Cherubino*, in Beaumarchais' immortal "Figaro," at Baden-Baden, with great success.

MISCELLANEA

Amen.—A few years since while rambling through the churchyard of Bakewell, Derbyshire, I saw and copied the following epitaph of a parish functionary, to whose worth the local poet testified in strains of a parallel character to those of the Crayford example furnished by your Correspondent "A. R." in the last number of the *Athenæum*:

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Like him can make the roofs rebound?

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The Town—so soon! Here lie his bones.

Sleep undisturb'd within thy peaceful shrine

Till Angels wake thee with such notes as thine.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

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